



**BE PREPARED.** Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay with gas mask and in Boy Scout uniform prepares to enter "ground zero" of the Glorietta 2 explosion site on Wednesday. **ERIKARAZAS**

## BUSINESS / B1

**Businessmen remain upbeat on economy**

## METRO / A17

**Devanadera reverses prosecutor's recommendation, orders filing of murder charges vs Luis Gonzalez**

## NEWS / A2

**Dr. Mita Pardo de Tavera; 87**



# PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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**JAIME AYALA:** Nothing out of the ordinary. **REM ZAHORA**



**SUPT.** Fennimore Jaudian stands near the entrance to the Glorietta 2 basement where the explosion is believed to have originated.



**SPD CHIEF TICMAN** shows list of technical experts helping investigate the Glorietta 2 blast.



**PNP CHIEF Razon** explains explosion to INQUIRER editors on Wednesday. **IM GILBERT KUNZALAN**

# Ayala blasts PNP probe

**Mall owner questions gas explosion theory**

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson and DJ Yap

"NOTHING EXTRAORDINARY" WAS HOW AYALA Land Inc. (ALI), operator of the Glorietta shopping complex in Makati City, yesterday described the condition of the Glorietta 2 (G2) basement before the Oct. 19 explosion that killed 11 people and injured more than 100.

ALI president Jaime Ayala said at a press conference that this was what Glorietta maintenance personnel had reported to the company prior to the blast, based on an initial report provided by the Ayala Group's "technical team" on Tuesday night.

He said the team was composed of engineers, chemical experts, consultants and experts on fire and safety.

Asked whether the information from ALI's technical team had refuted a police finding that leaned toward an accidental gas explosion in the G2 basement, Ayala said: "At this point, we are

providing the facts so that the authorities can finish their report. At this point, we would like to wait until we see the report so we can actually address the specific conclusions that the authorities have made."

The Philippine National Police is sticking to its gas explosion theory.

At a meeting with INQUIRER reporters and editors yesterday afternoon, PNP Director General Avelino Razon said the investigation was pointing to an ignition of dangerous gases accumulating in the G2 basement.

AYALAS/A8



**PAMPANGA GOV. ED PANFILIO:** I hope they're telling the truth



**ED. PANFILIO** and **PAWALAN GOV. JOEL REYES:** It's money of LPP, not Malacañang.



**Where's our P500,000 cash? governors ask**

By Inquirer staff

AT LEAST SEVEN GOVERNORS have neither heard of their league's "capacity-building program" (CBP) nor have they ever received money for such a program supposedly meant for neophyte governors.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon, a veteran politician now on his third term, said he wanted P500,000.

WILLY T. YOUNG/A8

**Among Ed: Why did it take 13 days to reveal cash source?**

By Inquirer staff

PAMPANGA GOV. EDDIE Panfilio yesterday expressed skepticism over claims that the P500,000 he and Bulacan Gov. Josepito Mendoza each received in Malacañang on Oct.

11 had come from the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP).

"It came as a surprise," Panfilio said of the statements by Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, the LPP secretary, and Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, LPP

spokesperson, that the money was from the LPP's capability building program (CBP).

"Why is it only now that they are telling us that the money came from the CBP? It has taken them 13 days to reveal that,

AMONG ED/A8

# Opposition to Erap pardon gaining ground

By Jerome Aning, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Leila B. Salaverria and Jocelyn R. Uy

LAWYERS, MILITANTS AND anticrime crusaders—and at least one academic institution—have found common

cause in opposing a presidential pardon for ousted President Joseph Estrada, a convicted plunderer.

A "mockery of justice" was how an alliance of lawyers' groups called the No Pardon for Erap Movement (NOPE) described President Macapagal-

Estrada's likelihood of granting clemency to Estrada.

"The pardon, if granted under the conditions dictated by Estrada, is a national insult to our country's honor. We appeal to ... [Ms Arroyo] not to allow this national shame to happen despite the politicians' pressure

on her," said NOPE convenor Leonard de Vera of the Equal Justice for All Movement.

Malacañang yesterday said it would conduct a national survey to get the public pulse on the issue.

"Public opinion is a factor," said Ms Arroyo's legal adviser

Sergio Apostol, who noted that with his appeal, Estrada had practically recognized her legitimacy.

On Monday, Estrada, 70, dropped his motion for reconsideration before the Sandiganbayan, which sentenced him to

OPPOSITION/A8

**Esperon blinks, orders release of Jonas report**

By Nikko Dizon and Leila B. Salaverria

GEN. HERMOGENES ESPERON JR., ARMED Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, yesterday announced he was releasing the military report on how the license plate of an impounded vehicle ended up being used by the kidnappers of activist Jonas Burgos.

"I thought that for the sake of upholding and the protection of human rights, I might as well declassify this since it has become one issue where [Editorial] Burgos insisted that the military's report would help find Jonas," Esperon said.

Esperon's announcement was made as the

**SC receives first writ of amparo plea**

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE MOTHERS OF TWO MISSING students of the University of the Philippines yesterday sought a writ of amparo (or protection) from the Supreme Court to order the military to free their daughters and the latter's companion.

Erlinda Cadapan and Concepcion Empiezo, whose daughters Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empiezo were purportedly kidnapped by the military along with farmer Manuel Merino in June 2006, were the first in the country to seek the writ of amparo, which provides remedies to any person whose right to life, liberty and security is violated and threatened.

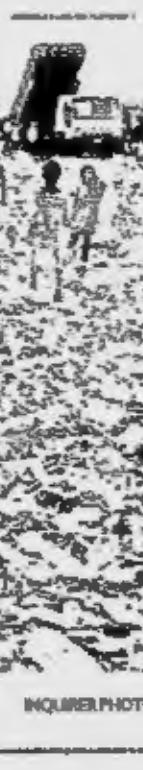
The mothers asked for the release of their daughters and Merino from military custody if they are still alive, or for the military to disclose the location of their graves.

They also asked to be allowed to inspect nine places, including

SC RECEIVES/A7



**VON HERNANDEZ:** He walks his talk.



**INQUIRER PHOTO**

# Pinoy on Time magazine's list of Green heroes

By TJ Burgonio

IN THE EYES OF FELLOW ENVIRONMENTALISTS, Von Hernandez is the kind who walks his talk, and gets the job done.

It's no surprise then that Hernandez has been named by Time magazine as among this year's "Heroes of the Environment," along with Al Gore, Mikhail Gorbachev and Prince Charles and other personalities.

The Greenpeace campaign director was cited for his relentless campaign against trading

PINNOY/A8

PINNOY/A8

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## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will have cloudy skies with scattered rainstorms and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Southern Luzon which may trigger flashfloods and landslides.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	North Luzon	Cloudy with Rains
Bogos	Cloudy with Rains	Boracay	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laog	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	San. Señor	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zambanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Catapan	Cloudy with Rains	Batangas	Cloudy with Rains

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Website: www.inquirer.net/nation



# More churches rap GMA

## WHAT'S INSIDE

## SEARCH ON FOR Fil-Am victims of California fires

/A9

## OMBUDSMAN suspends 6 Customs men

/A9

## 'Come clean,' Protestants urge President

By Beverly T. Natividad

THE COUNTRY'S EVANGELICAL churches have joined the call for President Macapagal-Arroyo to come clean on corruption allegations hounding Malacañang.

In a statement, the Philippine Council of Churches (PCEC)—the largest network of evangelical or Protestant Christian churches in the country—has asked President Ar-

royo and other political leaders to "respond to the clamor for transparency and address the nation on the various scandals" involving the administration.

Similar calls were made earlier by the Catholic Church, the Philippines for Jesus Movement (PJM) and the Jesus is Lord Movement (JIL).

The PCEC is a network of 65 denominations, 130 mission groups and over 20,000 local churches.

The PCEC reminded the country's leaders that their "righteousness" in handling the issues at hand will invite blessings to the country, while the opposite – wicked-

ness – will surely court destruction.

The group said they were deeply concerned about all the talk of corruption involving government leaders. While the list of controversies has been getting longer, the public still has yet to receive any clear answer from those involved, they noted.

The PCEC also expressed its dismay at "the culture of corruption in the government" while the majority of the Filipinos are still living in poverty.

Evangelical church leaders also asked the Christian faithful to launch what they said was their most powerful answer to the country's problems – prayer.

Esperon asks:  
Who planted  
bombs around  
Glorietta in '03?

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. yesterday turned the tables on detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, saying it was the Magdalo group of junior officers, of which Trillanes was one of the leaders, which planted bombs at the Glorietta mall during the failed July 2003 coup.

Trillanes, who is being tried on coup d'état charges for the attempted coup, also known as the Oakwood mutiny, has accused Esperon and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales of masterminding what he claimed was the bombing of the Glorietta 2 mall on Oct. 19.

Esperon yesterday threw the accusation back at Trillanes, saying, "Who were the people in fact who planted bombs in that area in 2003?"

On July 27, 2003, a heavily armed Trillanes, with the self-styled Magdalo group of junior military officers and about 300 enlisted personnel, took over the Oakwood Premier hotel, since renamed Ascott, at the Glorietta complex in Makati's Ayala Center.

The group demanded the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and top military and defense officials, accusing them of corruption. The stand-off lasted a little over 24 hours.

Esperon denied having had a hand in the explosion at the Glorietta 2 which police investigators now believe may not have been a bombing at all but an industrial accident arising from the accumulation of combustible gases in the mall's basement. Eleven people were killed and more than a hundred injured in the blast.

"We have forces that can do that (bombing). But why should we be doing that when we are supposed to be protecting the people? At least we have not shown intent to do harm," Esperon said.

The AFP chief said Trillanes was "mixing speculation with politics," and asked what basis the former Navy lieutenant, who was elected to the Senate in May, had for making the charge that Esperon and Gonzales had staged the explosion. Nikko Dison

## 'Mamita,' doctor, activist, dies

FORMER SOCIAL WELFARE SECRETARY Mita Pardo de Tavera passed away last Tuesday after a battle with leukemia. She was 87.

Interment will be on Friday after a Mass at 1 p.m. at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City.

Born to the illustrious Pardo de Tavera clan, "Mamita," as she was called by people close to her, devoted more than six decades of her life to serving the needy.

After graduating from the University of the Philippines in 1944 with a degree in medicine, Pardo de Tavera worked at the Philippine Tuberculosis Society. It was an eye-opener for her. In a 1986 interview with *Woman Today*, she said, "That's where I saw the imbalances, the wide disparity between the poor and the better-to-do."

Pardo de Tavera later became executive secretary of the PTS. She led the organization until 1974.

In the 1970s, she founded the Alay Kapwa Kilusang Pangkalusugan (Akap), an organization of health workers volunteering to teach preventive medicine to poor communities nationwide.

Akap has educated thousands of residents of impoverished communities on ailments like tuberculosis, diarrhea, colds, flu, dengue and malaria.

Even when she was past retirement age, Pardo de Tavera participated actively in street protests against Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship.

After Marcos' ouster, she served as social welfare secretary in the Aquino administration.

She also became chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and president of the Philippine Cancer Society.

In 1991, the PCS launched the Hospice Home Care Program, which provided psycho-emotional and spiritual support to the terminally ill. Pardo de Tavera focused on cancer-stricken persons given short-term survival by their doctors.

For her "outstanding community services and medical ethics," the Philippine Medical Association gave Pardo de Tavera the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award in 1994.

Cyril L.

Bonabente, *Inquirer* Research

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2007

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25

EZ2 FOUR DIGIT

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MEGALOTTO 6/45

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# Among Ed: Why did it take 13 days to reveal cash source?

From page A1

and they made denials in the last few days," Paniliao said.

Asked if he would follow Evardone's suggestion that he and Mendoza return to the LPP the money given to them, Paniliao said: "We will still have to study it." He said he would first consult with his supporters.

Paniliao said returning the money would not help him have, in Evardone's words, "peace of mind."

"In the first place, I am not at peace with the statement of Governor Evardone," said Paniliao, 53, a priest for 26 years before he won the May 14 gubernatorial election in Panganga on a platform of a moral crusade and good governance.

"I just hope they're telling the truth," he said. "I hope they have a clear mind and clear conscience and tell what's true."

The LPP said it was the source of the cash gifts handed out in Malacañang, a day after Mendoza revealed what he described to be the "true account" of how the money, coming in two paper gift bags, got to him.

#### Palace denies disbursements

This came after Director Gloria Bundoc of the Palace finance office informed Paniliao and Mendoza in a letter on Oct. 19 that "the Office of the President has not released/disbursed any amount to your province..."

According to Mendoza, Evardone told him at the LPP meeting that money was to be given out for barangay and community projects.

Right after the meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Mendoza said an LPP staff member ushered him into a room beside Heroes Hall.

Interior Undersecretary Aus-

tere Panadero, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. official Edward Plaza and a man he did not know were present in the room, where a woman in white handed him the paper bag containing the money.

The cash handouts came amid the latest impeachment case against Ms Arroyo. Her critics said the handouts were an attempt to buy the loyalty of the more than 100 congressmen and 42 governors who went to separate meetings at the Palace that day.

#### New funding facility

In a phone interview, Reyes said money given to Mendoza and Paniliao came from a new P6-million funding window established on Sept. 6. It is still unknown to most LPP members because protocols to avail of it have yet to be established, said Reyes.

He explained that the money was withdrawn from LPP's bank account with Equitable PCI Bank through a board resolution in two withdrawals of P3 million each.

Reyes added that the LPP had a current cash position of about P20 million from annual dues paid by their members.

"We regard these funds as public funds and we are willing to have them audited externally, though we have an internal audit in place," Reyes said.

Asked why it took 13 days for the LPP to speak up, Reyes said he was in the United States accompanying his wife on a medical checkup when the controversy happened.

Malacañang declined comment on the LPP claim. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President now wanted the Ombudsman to investigate the alleged payoff instead of the Presi-

dential Antigraft Commission.

"So, let us just allow the Ombudsman to appreciate and investigate the merit of the new testimony (of the LPP)," Bunye said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the LPP officers would be summoned to his planned Senate inquiry and they would be liable if they were found covering up the alleged bribery in the Palace.

Culpability, Lacson added, could reach Malacañang since it was the venue for the payments.

#### Unthinkable

"It's unthinkable for the President of the republic not to know what's happening inside the Palace especially if it involves giving out P500,000 to governors and congressmen. Whether she knows it or not, that's equally bad," Lacson said.

Bank of Commerce officials, he said, may also be held responsible if they did not report to the Anti-Money Laundering Council the movement of millions of pesos, if indeed the LPP regularly transacted with the bank whose mark was reportedly found on the money bundles.

In the House of Representatives, Speaker Jose de Venecia said the source of the cash gifts would be the subject of an upcoming congressional inquiry.

"We are now pursuing great positive changes for the country," he said. "I don't want to get caught in claims and counter-claims in issues of bribery," De Venecia said.

With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Alfonso W. Lopes; Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon; Redempto Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Carla Gomes, Nestor Burgos Jr. and Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

## Where's our P500,000 cash? governors ask

From page A1

too, if the money given to governors in Malacañang two weeks ago came from the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP).

Marafion, who was not at the Malacañang meeting where new governors were supposed to have been given the dole, said this was the first time he heard of the program.

But "if it is league money they gave out to the governors, we will request for our share," he said.

#### No longer around

Leyte Gov. Carlos Jericho Petilla, who is on his second term, said he attended the Oct. 11 meeting in Malacañang but he was no longer around for the handouts.

He said he was not aware that the LPP had a "capacity-building program" for new governors. He said he did not even know that it was to be discussed in that Palace gathering. All along, he thought it was about the coming barangay elections.

Petilla said he would have accepted the money as he could use it to finance some projects, such as funding for the provincial hospital.

Antique Gov. Salvador Zaldivar-Perez, a member of the

LPP's national executive board, said she also had not heard of the CBP but she believed that there was a fund for "alliance building."

She said this was similar to the "capacity-building program for new governors" mentioned by the LPP's spokesperson, Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes.

#### Solidarity building

Perez said that the program, approved Oct. 6 last year, included strengthening ties and building solidarity among provincial government officials. She said the program did not specify how much, how and when it will be given to the new governors.

Aldan Gov. Carlito Marquez, on his second term, said he was unaware of the program. "Maybe, it's because it's a 'new one,'" he said. Marquez also said he did not receive any LPP funds.

Capiz Gov. Victor Tanco Sr., a neophyte governor who failed to attend the Malacañang meeting, said he was not informed that he will be given P500,000 from the LPP.

Asked where the 79-member LPP got the money, Perez said the league had "excess" funds from annual contribution of its members.

"We only spend it for meet-

ings so there is usually a significant amount left," said Perez.

She said Antique, a second-class province, contributes around P120,000 annually.

Perez said the LPP's financial assistance would be given to not more than 15 neophyte governors.

#### Not enough for all

But Tanco said he doubted if the league could afford to give P500,000 to each of the new governors.

He pointed out that Capiz, a

third-class province, contributed around P80,000 annually.

If all the members contribute an average of P100,000 annually, that totals to only P7.9 million," he said. Giving P500,000 to 15 new governors would add up to P7.5 million.

Tanco said he was willing to receive the money from the LPP only "if it's honest to goodness from the LPP to be used for projects and if there are no strings attached."

In the past, the league had given provinces financial assis-

tance for calamities or for officials who go abroad to attend seminars or workshops, Marafion said.

However, he said, he has not heard of the league's capacity-building program. "Maybe, it is a new feature just being implemented," Marafion added.

Northern Samar Gov. Raul Daza, who said he did not attend the meeting, said: "It is up to them to return it or not. And I don't like to judge them lest I will be judged," Daza said in a

mobile phone interview.

Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos-Rector denied she got any cash gift in Malacañang, although she was present when it was distributed.

"Please don't drag me into this. I'm just a new governor. I don't want to be distracted from my job," the actress-turned-politician said.

With reports from Carina R. Gomes, Nestor Burgos Jr. and Joey A. Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas; Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Tagalog

## ZTE inquiry resumes; Cabinet men not going

From page A1

awarded to ZTE Corp. of China.

The Senate is scheduled to resume today its investigation of the controversial deal that was tainted by allegations of overpricing and offers of bribes.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera would ask the Supreme Court in a letter to terminate the case against the NBN deal because it had been scrapped by the President.

Bunye said a similar letter would be sent to the Senate to explain why Cabinet officials would not be attending the hearing today.

"That's the logical conclusion (no gov-

ernment officials would attend the Senate probe) because in our view, whatever is our justification in the Supreme Court, that will also be the reason we will give to the Senate," Bunye said.

The President announced the scrapping of the ZTE deal on Oct. 2 while the Senate was investigating the deal to which the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, had been linked.

Bunye maintained that with no deal in place, both the Supreme Court and the Senate have no case to look into.

Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico asked the tribunal in August to nullify the ZTE contract for being unconstitutional and to stop its implementation.

Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI) also asked the Supreme Court to stop the deal's implementation. AHI is the Filipino firm that submitted an unsolicited proposal to undertake the NBN project at no cost to the government.

Acting on the petitions, the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order on the implementation of the project last month.

#### Teves, Neri abroad

Bunye said Finance Secretary Margarita Teves and Commission on Higher Education Chair Romulo Neri had written excuse letters to the Senate explaining their non-appearance. Both officials are abroad.

Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza has also begged off from the hearing, citing a busy schedule. Trade Secretary Peter Favila, for his part, told the Senate he was ill.

Also invited to the Senate hearing today were Jose Miguel Arroyo, Communication Assistant Secretary Elmer A. Soneja, whistle-blower Jose "Joey" de Venecia III and newspaper columnist Jarlus Bondoc.

As of yesterday afternoon, only De Venecia III and Bondoc had confirmed their attendance to the Senate blue ribbon committee, which leads the investigation.

Arroyo had sent word he would not attend the hearing upon the advice of his doctors who cautioned him against going into stressful situations while rehabilitating from his heart surgery.

#### Deposition

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said he would ask the Senate blue ribbon committee to direct the Senate physician to look into Arroyo's real condition.

Pangilinan also said Arroyo should submit a deposition to answer De Venecia's accusation even if he was not physically present at the hearing.

De Venecia told the first Senate hearing on the ZTE deal on Sept. 18 that in mid-March the President's husband shoved a finger at him and told him to "back off" from the NBN project.

President's Chief Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol said Ms Arroyo's husband could not be forced to make a deposition on his encounter with De Venecia.

#### Foolish

"It's the same thing, whether oral or written, it will cause stress, so there is no need of forcing him to execute a statement or

what," Apostol said.

Apostol said it would be foolish for the Senate to insist on its physician to check on the President's husband.

"He is not an accused. He's just being called as a resource person," Apostol said. He argued that the Senate could complete its probe without Arroyo's presence.

Opposition senators vowed to pursue the investigation to its "logical conclusion," and to recommend charges against those liable for the alleged rigging and overpricing of the contract.

De Venecia accused then Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. of brokering for the ZTE and of offering him \$10 million in December 2006 to withdraw AHI's proposal.

Abalos was also accused by Neri at the third Senate hearing on Sept. 26 of offering him P200 million in exchange for his endorsement as National Economic and Development Authority director general of the ZTE proposal to undertake the NBN project using a loan from the Chinese government.

Amid the charges and an impeachment case in the House of Representatives, Abalos resigned as Comelec chair on Oct. 1.

During the 10-hour marathon hearing on Sept. 26, Neri said he reported the bribe offer of Abalos to the President. Neri, however, refused to disclose what the President did afterward and why he still approved the deal, saying he was instructed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita to invoke "executive privilege."

"We in the Senate will make sure that this probe is pursued to its logical end, in aid of legislation. At the end of these hearings, we will make sure that we have all the tools and measures against those seeking to make a windfall from overpriced deals at the expense of the people," Sen. Manuel Roxas II said yesterday.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. noted that the Senate had not gathered enough information to pin all those responsible for the anomalous contract.

#### Surprise witness

At the Quijano de Manila forum, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said a "surprise witness" in the person of a former ZTE consultant may testify at the hearing.

He, however, said that the "new mystery man" hardly had any credibility left after he apparently asked for P5 million to P10 million from various opposition personalities in exchange for his testimony.

The senator said he did not know the identity of the man, but he believed he was peddling himself as someone who could corroborate De Venecia's statements.

On Wednesday, Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella said he received information that the opposition would present the witness at the resumption of the Senate hearing on the ZTE deal.

"I am just warning them [the opposition] that they should not come up with a witness like this. What will we have? Another circus?" said Puentevella, chair of the House committee on transportation.

"According to my sources, he was fired from ZTE after he allegedly leaked information to Amsterdam Holdings Inc.," Puentevella said.

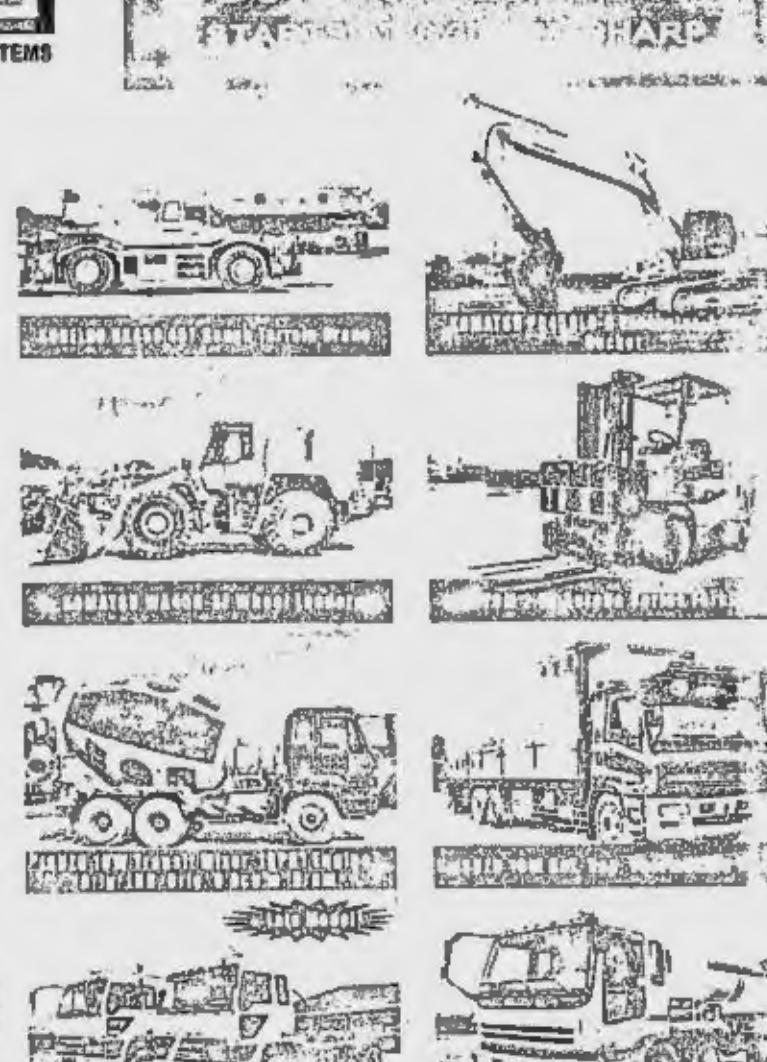
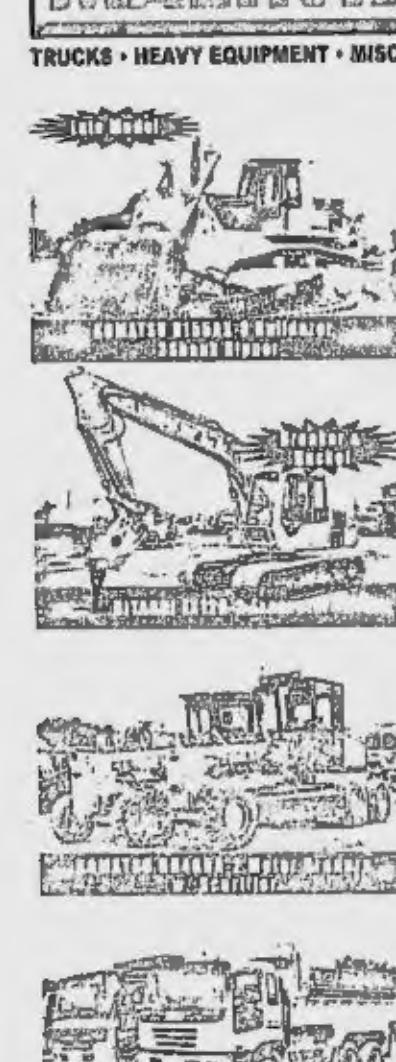
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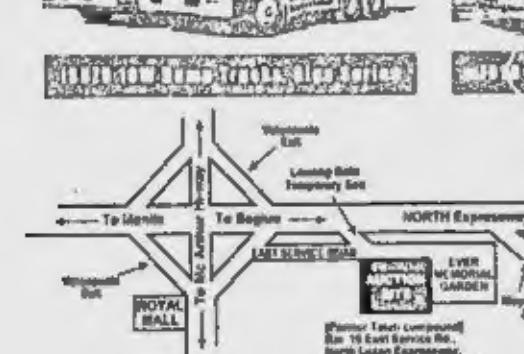
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THURSDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2007

# ANNOUNCING THE HISTORIC FIRST FLIGHT OF THE A380



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Singapore to Sydney, 25 October 2007. The day the new Singapore Airlines A380 embarks on its maiden voyage. A flight that sets a new benchmark for luxury, space and comfort. It isn't just another first for Singapore Airlines. It's a defining moment for the industry. A moment that will change the way you view travel, forever. [singaporeair.com](http://singaporeair.com)





PHILIPPINE ACADEMY OF CLINICAL AND COSMETIC  
**DERMATOLOGY**  
4TH ANNUAL CONVENTION  
25-26 OCTOBER 2007  
EDSA SHANGRI-LA, MANDALUYONG CITY

CONVENTION THEME:

"New Insights On Old Skin Problems  
and Cosmetic Concerns"

M E S S A G E S

Malacanang Palace  
Manila



Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology (PACCD) as you hold your 4th Annual Convention.

This convention with the theme, "New Insights on Old Skin Problems and Cosmetic Concerns," shows your commitment to constantly upgrade and enhance your knowledge and skills in the field of dermatology. It will also serve as a venue for you to discuss critical issues concerning your profession and to keep abreast with the recent developments in your specialty.

May you remain a relevant partner of my administration in implementing innovative policies on the effective delivery of health services to the public. May you also reach out to the most vulnerable sectors of our society and help provide a better future for our people and country.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

*Gloria Arroyo*  
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO  
President, Republic of the Philippines



Warm greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology as they hold their 4th Annual Convention with the theme, "New Insights on Old Skin Problems and Cosmetic Concerns".

The Department of Health welcomes this event as an indication of your commitment to undertake more worthy actions that will further improve the field of clinical and cosmetic dermatology for the benefit of our people.

I enjoin you to further aspire for excellence and innovation in promoting activities that will not only improve the dermatological health care industry but also lead our nation towards greater progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

*Francisco T. Duque, III, M.D., M.Sc.*  
Francisco T. Duque, III, M.D., M.Sc.  
Secretary of Health



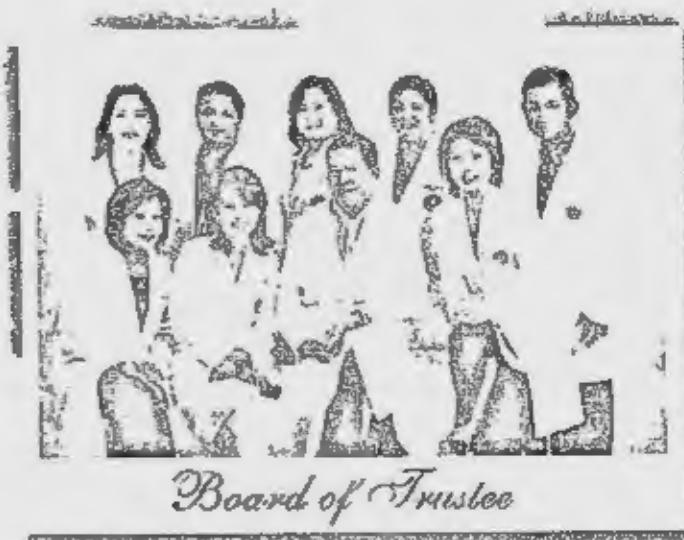
It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the officers and members of the Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology as you hold your Annual Convention. Such academic activity definitely places your organization at par with all other medical specialty societies committed to diagnosing and treating diseases of the skin.

There is no medical organization that can truly exist by itself. We all share a common interest in understanding the intricacies of the human body, and the diseases that ravage it. We must, therefore, need to shift our thinking from specialization to holistic, from fragmentation to integration, and from diversity to unity.

The Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists is your partner and friend in your own struggle for recognition as a true medical organization. May God bless you and may your tribe increase!

RENE C. CATAÑ, MD, FPAMS(Orth)  
President  
Philippine Academy of Medical Specialists

The Philippine Academy of Clinical and Cosmetic Dermatology (PACCD) will hold its 4th Annual Convention with the theme "New Insights on Old Skin Problems and Cosmetic Concerns" on October 25 and 26 at the EDSA Shangri-La. This informative 2-day affair will have an exposé on the latest technology and the recent breakthroughs in the study of Dermatology.



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• P R O G R A M M E •

Thursday, October 25, 2007

7:00 - 8:15	REGISTRATION
8:15 - 9:00	Opening Ceremony National Anthem PACCD Hymn Invocation
9:00 - 9:30	Opening Remarks Growth Hormones as Anti-Aging
9:30 - 9:45	OPEN FORUM
9:45 - 10:15	SNACK SYMPOSIUM: Pharmalink "Revisiting Topical Corticosteroid Treatment in Eczema"
10:15 - 10:45	Sexually Transmitted Infections: State of the Art
10:45 - 11:30	Therapeutic Challenges in Pediatric Dermatology
11:30 - 11:45	OPEN FORUM
11:45 - 1:30	LUNCH SYMPOSIUM: Natrapharm "Immunology of Dermatologic Diseases - Its Pathophysiology & Possible Treatment Options" Dermaroller: the Magic Wand of Ageless Beauty
1:30 - 2:00	Management of Fungal Infection - My Secret
2:00 - 2:30	Easy Agarose: A New Advent in Fillers
2:30 - 3:00	OPEN FORUM
3:00 - 3:15	SNACK SYMPOSIUM: Creative Skin & SPA Products
3:15 - 3:45	"Conjonctyl Silicon for the Future"
3:45 - 4:15	Paraneoplastic Skin Disorders: Markers of Internal Malignancy
4:15 - 4:30	OPEN FORUM
4:30 - 5:30	Business Meeting

ISLA Ballroom

Ma. Luisa G. Santos, MD	9:00 - 9:45
Angelina Aquende, MD	9:45 - 10:30
Vinson B. Pineda, MD	10:30 - 10:45
Nemando Delizo, MD	10:45 - 11:15
Sonia G. Baluyot, MD	11:15 - 11:45
Enrique Tayag, MD	11:45 - 12:00
Ratapom Ungpakorn, MD	12:00 - 1:00
Manuel Cantas, MD	1:00 - 1:45
Alain Gondinet, MD	1:45 - 2:30
Ratapom Ungpakorn, MD	2:30 - 2:45
Alain Gondinet, MD	2:45 - 3:30
Priscilla Cagulao, MD	3:30 - 4:00
Maria Victoria Lanin, MD	4:00 - 4:30

Friday, October 26, 2007

Highlights of the 21st World Congress in Dermatology	ISLA Ballroom
"Hormones Affecting the Skin: The Physiologic Effects & Imbalances Leading to Skin Abnormalities	
OPEN FORUM	
SNACK SYMPOSIUM: Loider Inc. "Role of New Peptides in Facial Wrinkle Repair and Targeting Specific Collagen Hydrolipochatasis: Laser Assisted Non-Surgical Liposuction Technique for Dermatologists"	
OPEN FORUM	
LUNCH SYMPOSIUM: United Shelter Health Products Law on Adulterated and Misbranded Products Presentation of Drug Companies Stem Cells "The Shooting Star to Fountain of Youth"	
OPEN FORUM	
Bisazumin Test: Improving Result in Advance Techniques	
OPEN FORUM / SNACK (Allergen)	
Fractional Resurfacing with Carbon Dioxide - Yag Laser Combination and Advantages of Low Power Diode Laser in Aesthetics	
OPEN FORUM	
Closing Ceremony	
Fellowship Night (Garden Ballroom - Theme: Tropical)	

ISLA Ballroom

Resilito Acosta, MD	
Roberto Mirasol, MD	
Angelina Aquende, MD	
Kwon Han Jin, MD	
Joshua Ramos, Dep. Dir. BFAD Sonia Baluyot, MD Romulo De Villa, MD	
Joel Niodao, MD	
Kwon Han Jin, MD	
Rosario Divina Perez, MD	

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# Esperon blinks, orders ...

From page A1

Court of Appeals continued to hear a petition for the writ of habeas corpus filed by the family of Burgos, son of the late publisher and press freedom fighter Jose "Joe" Burgos, that includes a plea for the military to release its report on the license plate.

Burgos' lawyer, Pacifico Agabin, told the court he had watched and heard Esperon's announcement on television, but Justice Remedios Salazar-Fernando threatened to cite in contempt Col. Arthur Abadilla, provost marshal general, if he failed to bring the report to the next hearing on Nov. 7.

Jonas, 36, an activist-agriculturist training peasants in organic farming, was abducted from a Quezon City mall on April 28. His family said the military was involved, noting that one of the vehicles used in the kidnapping had carried the plates of a jeep impounded by the Army.

The military denies the charge. Police investigators have said Burgos was an officer of the communist New People's Army and that he was kidnapped by guerrillas after he was allegedly found to have pilfered NPA funds and that he was working with the military.

#### Succession of custodians

Esperon said the military investigation of the license plate showed a succession of custodians of the impounded vehicle who

failed to do their job of safeguarding it.

He said the military did not know how the license plate eventually "got involved in the commission of the abduction."

Asked if he was certain that no military officer or soldier was involved in the abduction, Esperon replied: "I will not rule out anything at this point. What we are saying is that from what we have now, we would like to say that we are not involved in the abduction."

Esperon said that the writ of amparo, which took effect yesterday, requires the AFP "to do more than just deny" that Burgos is being held by the military. (See related story Page A1.)

"He is indeed not with us. The writ of amparo would require us to take steps to find out where he is, and we can comply with that," Esperon said. "As we have done, we have been looking for him also."

#### One last chance

"We will give the colonel a last opportunity to comply on condition that with or without the approval of the Chief of Staff or the Secretary of National Defense, you are required to bring the report," Justice Fernando told Abadilla.

She said the court would not entertain any postponement or excuse.

Burgos' mother Edita said she was displeased with Esperon's insincerity, considering that he earlier said he would abide by the court's ruling ordering the release of Abadilla's report.

Abadilla told the court that Esperon had declassified the report upon his recommendation, but added clearance from the Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro was needed before its release. "We cannot just act on our own," he said.

He had earlier offered to show the report to the Burgos family in an executive session, but the Burgos lawyers rejected this.

#### Enough time to comply

Fernando said the court understood that there were processes that the military had to follow, but added that it had given Abadilla enough time to comply with its directive. She also said it was not constrained to wait for Teodoro's response.

"If you don't get any reaction, we would be forced to cite you for contempt, is that fair enough?" Fernando said.

She also said the antigraft law required officials to respond to official communication in 15 days. Otherwise, they would be held liable.

She said the court would not entertain any postponement or excuse.

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#### SC receives first writ of amparo ...

From page A1

military camps, to look for their daughters, and sought the arrest of one Arnel Enriquez for his purported involvement in the abduction of the three, and require him to free them.

#### First day

Yesterday was the first day that the rules governing the writ of amparo took effect.

The writ requires respondents—whether government officials or agencies, or private individuals—to take action to resolve a grievance and not merely deny the allegation against them.

The respondents in the petition are President Macapagal-Arroyo, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon, retired Generals Romeo Tolentino and Jovito Palparan, Lieutenant Colonels Rogelio Boac and Felipe Anotado, Donald Caigas and Arnel Enriquez, Lt. Francis Mirabelle Samson and the Court of Appeals' Special Former 11th Division.

Cadapan and Empeño also sought to stop the appellate court from hearing their motion for reconsideration on the habeas corpus petition they had earlier filed, and asked that the court be censured "for being niggardly in the defense of individual rights against state power and terrorism."

They were joined at the Supreme Court yesterday morning by Edita Burgos, whose activist son Jonas has been missing since April. (See related story on Page A1.)

#### Manalo brothers

In the petition, Cadapan and Empeño cited the sworn statement of farmer-brothers Reynaldo and Raymond Manalo that they saw the two missing students when they were earlier detained by the military.

Raymond Manalo had said that he saw and talked to Sherlyn and Karen while in Zambales, and that the two were also being hurt by their captors. He added that he also witnessed the killing of Merino in Limay, Bataan.

The Manalo brothers issued their statement a few months after the appellate court dismissed the habeas corpus petition for the missing students and Merino.

Per their statement, the Manalos were abducted by the military in February 2006. They escaped in August 2007 after being brought to several military camps where they were subjected to severe torture, they said.

The Supreme Court has since issued a temporary restraining order on the military to prevent the brothers' arrest.

Yesterday, the Manalos asked that the high court convert their earlier petition—which sought its protection as well as an order to stop the military from arresting them—into one for a writ of amparo.

The Supreme Court Justices are on recess, but will hold a special en banc session today to deliberate on the two petitions for the writ, according to spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez.

#### Imminent danger

The mothers said their petition for the writ of habeas corpus had remained unresolved since they filed a motion for reconsideration of the appellate court's decision to reject it.

They said the lives of their daughters were "in real imminent danger ... while one person, Arnel Enriquez, who has a warrant of arrest, remains scot free."

The mothers also cited the testimony of

Sherlyn Cadapan's mother-in-law, whom the student briefly visited in her home in April while accompanied by soldiers.

They said they had sought all the remedies available to them, and that the writ of amparo was the only thing to which they could now resort.

The places that the mothers want inspected—and where their daughters and Merino had reportedly been seen—are the camp of the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Magsaysay, Laur, Nueva Ecija; the camp of the 24th Infantry Battalion at Limay, Bataan; the Army detachment in the Valmocina Farm in Pinao, San Ildefonso, Bulacan; the Army detachment at Barangay Hall, Sapang, San Miguel,

Bulacan; Camp Tecson in San Miguel, Bulacan; the rest house of Donald Caigas of the 24th IB at Barangay Banog, Bolinao, Pangasinan; the 56th IB headquarters in Hagonoy, Bulacan; the Army detachment at Barangay Mercado, Hagonoy, Bulacan; and the Beach House sa Iba, Zambales, a purported safehouse with a retired soldier as a caretaker.

#### Killings, disappearances

The writ of amparo was specifically issued by the high court in response to the rash of extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances of activists and journalists that have been the subject of international attention and criticism.

The rules governing the writ remove from authorities the defense of denial, order them to take more action to solve killings and disappearances, and demand from authorities more action and accountability.

"Do you think that I have come to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on, in one house five will be divided; three against two, and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

**Commentary**  
We have all sinned with our bodies, sexually and in relation to others in regard to justice and forgiveness. But now we are the servants of justice so that we may be made holy. We have known what death/sin/evil/injustice and violence does in our lives and in others. Now we are to know what holiness, grace, the Spirit, and love—that is the life of God—and what it does in our lives and others. This is the gift of Jesus the Christ in our lives at baptism that we carry around in our bodies.

Jesus intends to light a fire on earth—it is the baptism of light and the Spirit. Jesus has not come to make everything "nice" but to stir up what has been lying dormant and dead—to call each of us to commit ourselves to passionately obey God. This will cause dissent and division in our families, churches, and the world. This is a baptism of fire that can bring anguish because it is rejected by many and accepted by a few. Have we accepted this baptism of fire?



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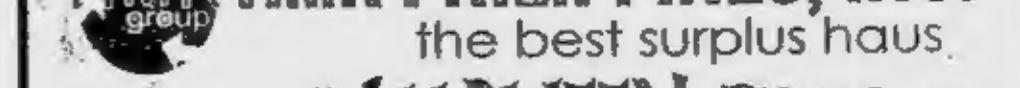
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# Ayala blasts PNP probe

From page A1

"We have not found any parts of a bomb. If we were to weigh on a scale the evidence we gathered pointing to a gas explosion on one hand and a bomb on the other, the gas explosion theory will have more weight," Razon said. But he added that the inquiry was not yet done.

Razon also said that while police investigators had initially found traces of RDX, a component used in high explosives like C4, this could be found in other products like deodorants, aerosols and sprays.

In Malacañang, Sergio Apostol, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief legal counsel, said both ALI and Makati City Hall could be held liable for negligence if the police's initial finding was confirmed.

"Once we have made our results concrete, the private owner and the city engineer's office and the mayor should answer all the questions why they allowed this to happen," Apostol said.

ALI is majority-owned by the Zobel de Ayala family, and the Makati government is led by Mayor Jejomar Binay.

## No 'aberrations'

Ayala said the diesel fuel tank in the G2 basement had an estimated content of 6,000 liters on the day of the blast, compared with its full capacity of about 14,000 liters.

"There are no reports or observations by maintenance personnel of any aberrations [in] the diesel tank," he said.

Ayala said there was ventilation in the basement through air entering the approximately 2.4-meter-by-2.4-meter opening at the stairwell connected to the delivery bay, which at that time was open to the road.

He said there was ambient room temperature with an estimated range of 28-30 degrees Celsius.

According to Ayala, there is a grease trap that separates grease from the wastewater entering a sump pit that collects water. There are two types of sump

pits in the basement—one where wastewater from the kitchens of five G2 restaurants enters, and another where wastewater from toilets in a portion of G2 (consisting of 21 water closets, 20 lavatories and 8 urinals) is dumped.

## Constant flow

Still according to Ayala, a pump in the kitchen sump pit automatically pumps wastewater to the main city sewer line.

In the waste sump pit, waste is seldom solid and mostly liquid, he said, citing an opinion by the Ayala Group's sewage expert. Wastewater enters the sump pit and is pumped out to the street sewer by a sump pump.

"Therefore, there is constant flow of mainly liquid wastewater from the toilets into the sump pit and on to the city sewer. Wastewater entering the sump pit stays in the sump pit for less than 24 hours. The usual decomposition process brought about by large amounts of solid matter in house septic tanks does not occur in this commercial sump pit," he said.

Ayala would not say whether these data dispelled the industrial-accident theory that banked on possible leaks from the basement septic tank or the seepage of methane gas.

"The reason we are sharing this is there are facts here that we think would be relevant to the authorities who are doing their analysis, and we feel this information would be helpful," he said. "We are not in a position at this point to draw conclusions. That is the job of the authorities investigating the matter."

Ayala said the internal analysis was to prepare ALI for any outcome of the PNP investigation.

"This is a very serious incident and we are looking at all the angles ... so we are ready whatever the outcome. We are ready to take action as soon as possible to make sure the safety of our premises are in place," he said.

Asked whether ALI was prepared for a possible class action suit in case police investigators concluded an accident, he merely said: "Ayala has always done the right thing."

"Whatever the outcome of this investigation by authorities, we are prepared to take whatever actions are necessary in order to further the interest of the public and our patrons."

## Temporary closure

ALI spokesperson Alfonso Reyes said the company received yesterday a temporary closure order from the city government.

City engineers conducted the inspection yesterday morning.

Ayala said the Glorietta shopping complex would be closed starting yesterday until the company receives the go-signal from the city government to resume business.

G2 accounts for roughly 2 percent (or roughly P123 million) of total full-year revenues of the shopping complex, based on 2006 data, Reyes said.

The damage to G2 has affected some 100 tenants, representing 10 percent of the total 1,000 tenants in the shopping complex.

"We will open once they tell us that they have thoroughly conducted their investigation and, in their estimation, that the mall is ready to open. This is a preventive measure and we fully agree that we do not want to open in a situation where the mall is not safe. Makati is doing its job on a thorough basis but the timetable is their timetable," Ayala said.

But he said ALI's mall operations—consisting of Glorietta, Greenbelt and other Ayala-owned shopping malls—accounted for only 17 percent of the property firm's total annual revenues.

"Given the size of our company and the fact that the economy is doing well, and all aspects of real estate, we expect to end 2007 on a strong up note from

last year," Ayala said.

As a condition for the lifting of the closure order, Mayor Binay told ALI to get a certification from occupational safety experts that the environs of the blast site were free of toxicity.

He imposed other requirements, like the green light on the structural integrity of the Glorietta complex from the City Engineer's Office and the Office of the Building Official.

Binay also required assurance from mall owners that no seepage of toxic substances from Glorietta 2 would occur at Glorietta 1, 3 and 4.

"Our action will be based on their compliance. Whether Glorietta would open tomorrow (Thursday) will depend on how they satisfy our conditions," he said after inspecting the blast site and the adjoining area.

The entire Glorietta was shut down yesterday on orders of City Engineer Nelson Morales, who demanded that a thorough inspection of the complex be conducted and the area declared safe before it could open.

## Scout Binay

Binay conducted the inspection, the fourth such check of Glorietta 2 by the city government since Monday, upon arriving from Japan, where he attended a scouting conference.

Still wearing his scout uniform, Binay showed reporters around the Glorietta 2 entrance and pointed to some of the materials recovered from the rubble, including vehicle parts.

"If indeed the investigation showed it was caused by a gas explosion, these people will be held for negligence," he said. "At this point, the focus of our investigation is the gas explosion because there is no evidence to suggest that it was a bomb explosion," he said.

Ticman basically said the same thing in his briefing for the inquirer. With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Alcuin Papa

these were "self-contained or centralized," among other things.

"There's a noxious smell coming from the blast site at Glorietta 2. The smell is really bad and hurts the eye, and we have to ensure that there is no seepage to Glorietta 1, 3 and 4," Binay said.

His political adviser, Lito Anzures, described the smell as "a mix of gas diesel and methane and other gases," which as of yesterday was being examined by members of the Occupational Safety and Health Center.

## Physical evidence

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the case would "ultimately boil down to physical evidence."

He said police investigators had been getting adequate support from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Australian Federal Police.

At a briefing in Malacañang, Chief Supt. Luiz Ticman, director of the Southern Police District, told reporters that US and Australian bomb experts had basically come to the same conclusion as the PNP that the explosion could not have been caused by a bomb.

"I have talked to them on a personal basis ... And our counterparts from the US, for example, have the same findings," he said.

Ticman said that once the investigation had been wrapped up and the accident theory upheld, the next step would be to file a case against the private operator and Makati City Hall officials.

"If indeed the investigation showed it was caused by a gas explosion, these people will be held for negligence," he said. "At this point, the focus of our investigation is the gas explosion because there is no evidence to suggest that it was a bomb explosion," he said.

Ticman basically said the same thing in his briefing for the inquirer. With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Alcuin Papa

# Opposition to Erap pardon gaining ground

From page A1

life imprisonment for plunder on Sept. 12, and sought a pardon from Ms Arroyo through his lawyers.

Explaining the unexpected move, Estrada yesterday reiterated that he finally followed his lawyers' advice because he realized that pursuing the motion would be a futile exercise.

Ms Arroyo "owns the power and authority now. The military is under her, the police is under her. All the agencies of the government are under her," Estrada told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "But in the end, it's not me but the people who will decide whether she is a legitimate president or not."

He, however, absolved Ms Arroyo from talks that the administration had entered into a deal with him to give him a pardon.

"In fairness to Ms Arroyo, there was no deal," Estrada said, adding that in the letter written by his lawyers, he also did not specify a waiver for the forfeiture of his civil liability.

"They can have that because I never owned any of them," he said, referring to the P545 million in "jueteng" payoffs, the P189 million in commissions from Belle Shares Corp. and the P142-million "Boracay Mansion" for which he was convicted.

## Before Nov. 7?

The P200 million deposited in the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation account remained intact, but for the balance, the government should go after whistle-

blower and former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Estrada said.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno on Tuesday said he expected Estrada to be pardoned and sent home before Christmas. But Estrada, who has been detained for six years, said he was hoping his release would be before Nov. 7, the scheduled execution of judgment on his sentence of imprisonment.

The Sandiganbayan has set the proceedings for Nov. 7, or 15 days after he withdrew his motion for reconsideration. It will issue an order transferring Estrada to the New Bilibid Prisons in the absence of an original copy of Ms Arroyo's approval of Estrada's request for pardon, said Renato Bocar, executive clerk of court and acting spokesperson of the antigraft court.

"But if the issuance of pardon comes first, the execution of judgment will be canceled because it will already be moot and academic," Bocar said in an interview.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye cautioned the public against speculating whether the President would grant pardon to Estrada.

"At this point, we can only say in very general terms that the justice secretary would come up with their recommendation that would be consistent with justice and consistent with our national interest," he said.

## 'Insult to due process'

Dante Jimenez, founding chair of

the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), which took part in the filing of impeachment and plunder cases against Estrada, said granting the former President a pardon would be "an insult to due process" and warned that Ms Arroyo would be "inviting disaster" if she agrees to it.

"It's sad that the issue is being politicized and it's wrong. We might as well abolish our laws against graft and corruption and rely on surveys," Jimenez told the INQUIRER.

He recalled a government official's report that recent surveys showed many Filipinos believed Estrada was not guilty and wanted him set free.

Unless the people voiced out their outrage, NOPE leader De Vera said the presidential pardon would not only set Estrada free but also erase and wipe out his crime.

"Estrada will be considered before the eyes of the law as if he had not committed the crime of plunder. A presidential pardon has the effect of the sacrament of baptism; it erases and wipes out our original sin and we appear sinless before the eyes of God," he said.

## 'Special' standard

NOPE said that a presidential pardon for Estrada "would validate the strong belief of our people that in the Philippines, justice is sacrificed before the altar of politics, and that the rich and influential have a special standard of justice while the weak

and the poor must rot in jail."

"Should not pardon also be granted to thousands of Filipinos who are now in jail for stealing much smaller amount of money from the government?" De Vera said. "Many of them stole out of family need and not out of personal greed."

The citizens group Maypagasa, which is identified with Vice President Noli de Castro, called the pardon issue "a rotten deal for the survival of a rotten government."

Ferdinand Hicap, chair of the fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakes ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas, said "political pardon" being offered by President Macapagal-Arroyo ... is like a peace offering coming from a syndicate in an intense war against another powerful mafia."

## 'Political psywar'

"It is a political psywar (psychological warfare), the purpose of which is to eliminate the Estrada camp from the broad anti-Arroyo movement, by pacifying Mr. Estrada and containing his supporters," Hicap said.

Pardon is Ms Arroyo's way of "defusing the political crisis; she's trying to lessen her enemies," said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

Partido ng Manggagawa chair Renato Magtrubo said it "will also herald the message that plunder can be forgiven, a convenient precedent when the time

comes that Ms Arroyo is no longer in power and the long arms of justice finally catches up with her."

## Miriam College stand

According to faculty members of Miriam College in Quezon City, Estrada "should not be pardoned without justice being rendered first and a sincere apology to the Filipino people" by the deposed leader, not by his lawyers.

"Education is extremely difficult when the school teaches the values of good citizenship and the country's leaders subvert them," Raul Alejandro, president of Miriam College Faculty Association, said in a letter to the INQUIRER. "Justice will not be served if Erap escapes the reclusion perpetua that he was justly sentenced to."

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz, a staunch government critic, said Ms Arroyo's issuance of a pardon would do nothing to save her from her credibility woes springing from the corruption controversies involving her administration.

Cruz, chair of the Krusada ng Bayan Laban sa Jueteng (Nation's Crusade Against Jueteng), said that in case of a pardon, the President would earn the ire of projustice organizations clamoring to put the deposed President in jail for plunder. But if Ms Arroyo denied the appeal, she would get the hatred of Estrada's mass supporters, he said.

With reports from Jerry E. Esplana and Beverly T. Natividad

# Pinoy on Time magazine's list of Green heroes

From page A1

in waste and highly polluting waste incinerators that led the Philippines to ban waste incineration in 1999, the first country to do so.

"He deserves all the honor. He represents the authentic environmental activist. He walks his talk. He knows his direction. He knows the problems of the planet," environmentalist Odette Alcantara said in an interview.

Hernandez "belongs to the pantheon of Filipino environmentalists that made their mark at the international level," said Richard Gutierrez of Basel Action Network (BAN).

"He helped blaze the way and is an inspiration for Filipino environmentalists to be fully engaged on the international environmental issues," Gutierrez said.

## 2nd international accolade

The Time citation was the second international accolade for the 40-year-old environmental activist, who was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2003, the Nobel Prize equivalent for grass-roots environmentalists.

In the magazine's special edition, Hernandez was lumped together with

other activists who made a huge impact in their countries.

Gore, Gorbachev, Prince Charles and others were grouped as leaders and visionaries.

The rest of the heroes fell under the categories of scientists and innovators, and moguls and entrepreneurs.

## Gratifying

Hernandez described the Time recognition as "gratifying," but said the honor belonged to groups and communities who had been showing the way on efficient waste prevention.

"It's a surprise to receive this recent accolade, but the real heroes here are the groups and communities whose work on waste prevention shows the way forward in our campaign for sustainability," he said in a text message from Thailand.

"Our leaders should learn from them," Hernandez said.

## Validation of work

Hernandez was presiding over a meeting of the Greenpeace Southeast Asia in Bangkok to "decide the focus of our work in the coming years" when the INQUIRER reached him for comment.

"Like the Goldman award, the Time recognition is an important validation not only of my work as an activist but also of the urgency of the planetary crisis now confronting us," he said.

"The personal recognition is gratifying but as an activist I know that time is fast running out," he added.

Hernandez began working with Greenpeace International in 1995 as co-ordinator for its antitoxic campaign in

# Fil-Ams among US fire victims

By Nimfa U. Rueda  
Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—FILIPINO-AMERICANS ARE among the hundreds of thousands displaced by the raging wildfires in Southern California, the Philippine consulate reported yesterday.

The consulate has formed a team to locate Fil-Am evacuees and meet with US emergency management officials to coordinate efforts to assist the Fil-Am victims of the wildfires, which have sparked the biggest evacuation in California history.

Among seven counties affected by the fires are Los Angeles and San Diego, where the majority of the more than 480,000 Filipinos in Southern California live. The other counties are Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara and Ventura.

The latest census showed that the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County metropolitan area has over 370,000 Fil-Am residents. The actual number is believed to be much higher since census numbers do not include undocumented immigrants.

The consulate team, headed by Vice Consul Jim Tito San Agustin, is scheduled to visit evacuation centers in San Diego tomorrow.

The consulate has opened an emergency line for affected Filipino nationals: (213) 268-9990. It also urged Fil-Am organizations to "contribute in any way they can" to help victims of the wildfires.

As of Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila), the wildfires have burned over 400,000 acres and destroyed more than 1,300 homes, according to California's Office of Emergency Services. About 500,000 have been evacuated in San Diego County alone. More than 6,000 firefighters have been deployed, and 900 fire engines, 25 air tankers and 40 helicopters have been sent to battle the blaze.

President George W. Bush has declared a state of emergency in Southern California.

"The people of California need all the help they can get at this tragic time and this action will allow our citizens to get the assistance they need," California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said.

## 6 Customs men suspended over undervalued cars

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN YESTERDAY ordered six Bureau of Customs employees suspended for alleged involvement in the smuggling of 14 luxury cars, which were undervalued at about P1 million each, at the Subic Bay Freeport in February 2007.

Those placed under a six-month preventive suspension were Josephine Dillas, acting chief of the certificate of payment unit at BOC-Subic; customs examiners Orlando Ronquillo, Rustico Mallari and Enrico Cruz, and principal appraisers Ebrahim Pangkatan and Rodolfo Casas.

The six BOC employees were accused of conspiring to release the 14 luxury vehicles, worth an estimated P37 million, without the proper payment of tax obligations.

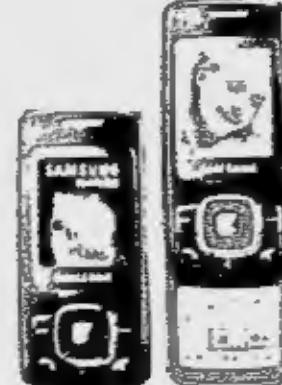
Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez said the six employees' names and signatures on the release documents were "prima facie presumption" that they had deliberately participated in the crime and admitted the accuracy of the written items contained in the documents.

"The office finds sufficient basis to place the respondents under preventive suspension pending investigation of the case," Gutierrez said, and directed Finance Secretary Margarito Teves to immediately implement the suspension order.

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by the finance department's Revenue Integrity Protection Service with the antigraft body last month.

The complaint said three brand-new Audi 8L were valued at only \$2,100 each (roughly P96,600 each); a Chevrolet Corvette at \$1,600 (P73,600) and three BMW 750Li at \$1,600 each (P72,500 each).

The three car models' actual "blue book value," however, has been placed at \$72,090 (P3.2 million), \$51,535 (P2.34 million) and \$78,100 (P3.53 million), respectively. *Jocelyn R. Uy*



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## OPINION

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## Don't rush

**W**E DO NOT KNOW WHO WAS THE FIRST TO raise the possibility that a liquefied petroleum gas tank caused the explosion at the Glorietta 2 mall. Perhaps it was an eyewitness or perhaps it was a radio commentator speculating on air. But a few hours after the explosion, this theory was firmly set aside, and by responsible officers of the country's armed services.

The blast was most likely caused by a hard explosive, Chief Insp. Reynold Rosero of the Philippine Bomb Data Center told reporters. (He also described the event as "most likely a deliberate attack.") Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon echoed the line later in the day.

The day after the blast, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon issued a categorical statement. "It is a terrorist attack," he said.

That same day, the PNP Crime Laboratory and the Bomb Data Center told the National Security Council meeting in Camp Crame that they had found traces of RDX, an ingredient used in such explosives as C4, which is used by the military.

But the following day, Sunday, the wind began to change direction. The police director for Metro Manila, Geary Barias, soft-pedaled the previous day's assertion that RDX was found, saying its presence would have to be verified by "additional testing."

This change came on the heels of the rather odd announcement, late on Saturday, that the blast originated from the basement of the mall.

"The explosion came from the underground, that's why there was a crater-like structure in the stairs going to the basement," Rosero of the Bomb Data Center told reporters. Aside from the curious construction of that statement (did the police officer say a crater in the stairs?), there is also the inconvenient fact that Makati City Councilor Jun-Jun Binay had already told the media, on the day of the blast, that the explosion left an eight-meter-wide crater on the ground floor.

Even without that conflict in testimony, however, Rosero's unqualified assertion that the blast started in the basement was rather premature. Why? Because on the day he said that, the basement in question was still heavily flooded. (There were mentions of the flooding in the early stories.)

Where did the water come from? From two tanks in the area, one containing water for fire-fighting purposes, the other water for ordinary use. Thus, in the first few days after the blast, not a single person entered the basement, because the water was filthy and deep.

How can anyone say on Saturday, and categorically, that the blast emanated from the basement?

By late Monday, the authorities had changed their principal theory. Without dismissing the possibility that the Glorietta tragedy was a terrorist bombing, the investigators said the blast could have been the result of an industrial accident.

Fire Supt. Fenniore Jaudian told police reporters an "accumulation of methane" in the basement could have caught fire and, in the process, caused the diesel tank in the basement (used to run emergency power generators) to explode.

Chemical engineers from the University of the Philippines have come forward to make their skepticism about the "methane + diesel" theory public. To be sure, they have not visited the site, and they have prefaced their remarks with qualifying statements. And yet in principle, their reservations about the theory should give any reasonable person pause. Diesel is famously non-volatile; methane build-up requires a confined space and a stagnant supply of solid waste.

It seems to us that for the new theory to work, the threshold of conditions assumed to exist is rather high.

We recognize, of course, that theories change as more facts emerge. We understand that, aside from that stray remark about RDX traces being found, not much else points to a bomb. But we also realize that in some high-profile terrorist acts, it took government investigators some time to prove that bombs were in fact used.

We acknowledge the investigators' readiness to continue considering the bombing angle—they were, after all, the first to consider it. We recognize their testing of new theories as consistent with the emergence of new facts. We believe, however, that their main duty, at this time, is to ascertain all the necessary facts. Unless these are established, any theory offered to the public is a rush to judgment.

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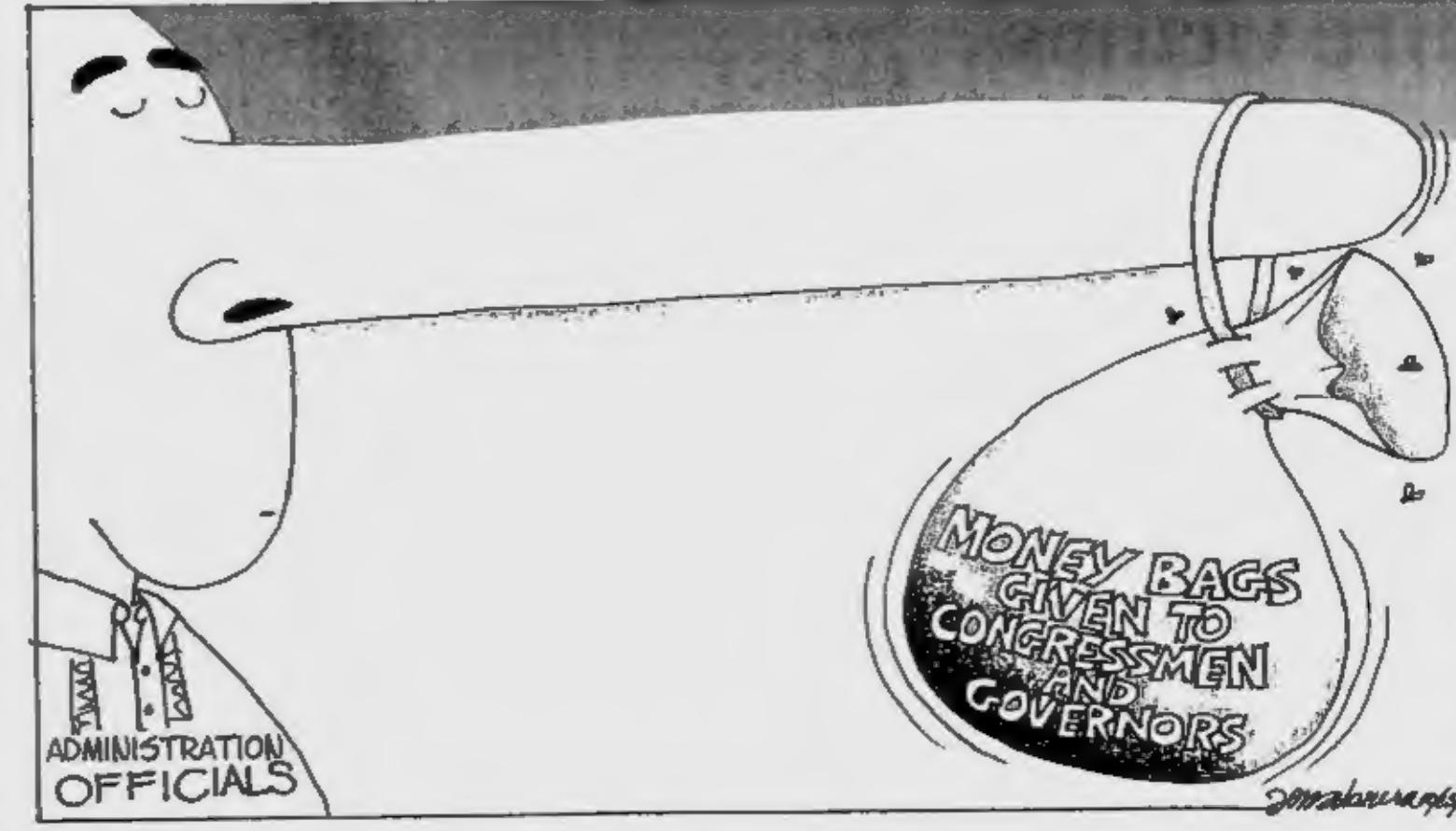
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## Cretin policies

## VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado



LAPU-LAPU CITY—DESPITE THIN DEMAND, this country has an oversupply of cretins. One glimpses this in how Mayor Arturo Radaza's handling of economic zones on Mactan Island chills 17 other ecozones nationwide.

This city is named after the chieftain who bushwhacked Ferdinand Magellan in 1521. The roots of Radaza's "10 minutes of headlines" are more prosaic. His office snapped up shoddy street lamps for the Asean Summit at p55,000 a throw. The Ombudsman skewered his honor with six months' suspension.

But Mactan is more than just guitars, seafood—or Radaza. It's also 142 factories, sprawled over 213 hectares. They produce watches, electronics, computers, etc. They account for 9 percent of the country's exports.

The payrolls for 43,000 workers inject P300 million monthly into the economy. Its population density is 3,581 persons per square kilometer, notes San Carlos University's Office of Population Studies. That's almost five times that of Cebu Province. One out of every four workers over age 20 has a college education.

Nitwits strange geese that lay golden eggs, sages tell us. But then they never met Radaza's "buccaneers." Lapu-Lapu City's income last year exceeded P652 million, the Commission on Audit reveals. Of this, P249 million came in "untied" Internal Revenue Allotments. So, why is the joint choked by garbage, traffic, squatters and a water shortage?

The city never built a sewerage system. Over a quarter (25.6 percent) of homes lack toilets. Across the narrow Mactan Channel is Mandaua. That city whittled down toilet-less homes to only 4.0 percent.

Almost 17 percent of Lapu-Lapu homes buy murky water from ambulant peddlers. That's triple the buyers (4.9 percent) in next-door Cebu City. And export zone firms pay tankers to fill their cisterns.

Where did the cash go? Overstaffed offices chewed up P203 million. And P23 million went to the purchase of overpriced computer clones, bought at P49,500 each from a hole-in-the-wall firm, said Mactan Island Chamber of Commerce

and Industry (MOCI) president Efrain Pelaez Jr. Those Pentium 4 clones are sold at half the cost in legit stores. Pelaez sued Radaza and 18 others for this re-run of the Asean street lamp fiasco.

MCCI's March survey of member-firms on corruption reported that out of 28 respondents, 25 bumped into grafters. "Crime, like virtue, has degrees." Thirteen respondents were dunned between P50,000 and P2 million. Five firms were squeezed for P5 million or more. At least 18 had their arms twisted for a "fixed amount," i.e. a percentage of the project cost to grease processing of permits and clearances.

The mayor's assistants demanded money to "facilitate" release of a license, permit or clearance, said 15 respondents. Another 12 claimed that "the mayor himself made the demand." As the old jingle asked, "Would you buy a second-hand car from this guy?"

In response, City Hall uncorked the threadbare "Alzheimer's Knee-Jerk." Radaza hunkered down. But officials Teodulo Ybañez and Rolando Duero subbed as "bouncers." Pelaez's firms would be padlocked, they vowed, since over the last 10 years, they didn't secure permits, licenses, etc. and they owed P5.4 million in business and realty taxes.

That's almost half of the P12.8 million the COA says Lapu-Lapu earned last year from permits and licenses. Radaza remembers hefty IOUs only when jabbed with graft raps? If so, Alzheimer's is not the problem here. It is vindictive discrimination.

"If two wrongs don't make a right, try for a third," says an old adage. The third that Radaza opted for was to stomp on a court order to maintain the status quo until Oct. 31. His mudlemen padlocked Pelaez's Marina Mall with its

82 tenants. And for good measure, they demolished a stone-paved causeway built by Pelaez.

Losses exceeded P8 million in the nine hours it took the Philippine Economic Zone Authority to rip the City Hall seals off. The Special Economic Zone Act of 1995 (RA 7916) gives Peza jurisdiction over locators. Pelaez's firms are locators and have Peza permits.

"The naked display of arrogance and power jeopardized the business climate and growing investments," the Cebu Provincial Board said in a resolution. "Respect the rule of law" and act with "prudence," it counseled.

"We never violated the court's restraining order," a Lapu-Lapu official said. "The TRO prevented us from enforcing notice of demolition. Closure was not covered by the TRO."

But people are not cretins. They see this as defense of the indefensible.

In economic zones, from Bataan to Laguna to Leyte, such ham-handed policies stir deep unease. Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz and businessmen made this point in calls to the President. Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde says he has been asked to mediate.

Pro forma Palace intervention raises expectations. But they achieve little unless citizens are aroused. That's the Cebu experience. A citizen complaint led courts to order Mayor Tomas Osmeña to dismantle his arbitrary blockade of South Highway.

"Complaints from each side are serious," the Sun Star noted. And the public expects not another political massage but that the issues "be resolved to yield the truth."

Lapu-Lapu officials chose to massage themselves by sweeping graft charges under the rug. The council debated whether to declare Pelaez persona non grata.

With Department of Interior and Local Government support, City Hall officials ran a self-evaluation exercise. They graded themselves "outstanding."

"Lord, what fools these mortals be," snaps Puck in "Midsummer's Night Dream."

(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

## The sheep ain't lost, the shepherds are

## THERE'S

## THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



SOME 18 BISHOPS FROM MINDANAO SEE things differently. "The growing call for resignation of President Arroyo is still premature," they say, reacting to calls from their counterparts in the capital for her to do so. Led by Archbishop Fernando Capalla, former head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and still defender of the faith—also called GMA—the 18 bishops declare:

"We believe that the whole truth about any moral issue must be ascertained or firmed before subjecting it to moral scrutiny and judgment. Otherwise, any statement on the matter may be premature and counter-productive. Hence, there is a need for a thorough and impartial investigation as prescribed by law, truth and honesty and a sense of patriotism... And we pray for sobriety, calmness and peace to Jesus Christ the prince of peace."

Poor Mindanao. Or poor Christian flock of Mindanao to be led by shepherds such as these. This declaration will go down the annals of Philippine history as comparable to the ultimatums the friars of Jose Rizal's time flung on "an mana indio" to keep them loyal to Spanish rule. It does not offer an argument for the faithful to be faithful to GMA, it offers an argument for the faithful to convert to Islam.

At the very least what's wrong with it is that it is nonsensical. What in hell (heaven can have nothing to do with it) does it mean to ascertain the whole truth about any moral issue first before you can subject it to moral scrutiny? God, or his prophets, may speak in mysterious ways, but this is not mysterious, this is incomprehensible. You suspend moral scrutiny until the whole truth is known about something, you will never morally scrutinize anything. Or have you ever reached a point where you knew the whole truth about anything?

But, well, maybe we should have followed this piece of advice, or just a fraction thereof, during Erap's time. Then we would never have had these bishops' favorite non-President to torment us. Let us forget, the whole truth about Erap's wrongdoing was not known when

citizens rose to oust him. All we knew were the accusations hurled against him at the impeachment trial which we rightly subjected to moral scrutiny and judgment. All we knew was that Erap's minions in the Senate did not want the second envelope to be opened which we rightly presumed to contain damning evidence since people who have nothing to hide normally do not suppress things. To this day, does anybody really know the whole truth about Erap—or the Sandiganbayan which convicted him?

Yet to this day, too, I have not heard Capalla or any of his friends complain bitterly that this country never gave the ex- (and real) president a chance, rushing to oust him before ever the whole truth was known. No wonder Jaime Cardinal Sin looms large in the moral landscape. In the land of the blind, the one-eyed is king; in the land of moral pygmies, the reasonably righteous is titan.

It's all very well to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation. But Capalla and company's definition of a thorough and impartial investigation is the kind GMA herself initiates, and truthful findings the kind he and ilk are willing to believe. As far as the first goes, well, there is one thing in common with all the "I will leave no stone unturned" investigations GMA has so far vowed to carry out, which include cheating in elections, the killings of journalists and political activists, and bribery and corruption in government. It's that there's only one bug crawling under all those stones. Guess who.

As far as the second goes, well, there's a local saying that the hardest person to wake up is the one pretending to be asleep. The hardest

person to help see things is the one pretending to be blind. You want a thorough and impartial investigation, investigate why Capalla is acting like a toady of the State rather than a prince of the Church.

But infinitely more than that, their concept of governance comes straight from hell. Elsewhere in the democratic world or, never mind democratic, in the reasonably sane world, the concept is not: "A government has a right to exist until its constituents can prove to its satisfaction that it is evil and corrupt." It is: "A government has a right to exist only as it is able to prove to its constituents' satisfaction that it is good and upright." A government's right to exist does not depend on the citizens' ability to prove it wrong, it depends on its ability to prove itself to the citizens right. It is not for public officials to demand that the people show why they should step down, it is for the people to demand that public officials show why they shouldn't.

Japan, South Korea and other Asian countries are not Catholic, for which, given the kind of bishops Mindanao has, they ought to be very thankful. But their public officials know enough morality and ethics or, never mind those big words, enough goodness and decency to resign or commit hara-kiri at the first whiff of scandal. If one of their leaders were to be accused of any, not to speak of all, of the things GMA has done, he would not only disembowel himself, he would torture himself to death slowly to remove every taint of dishonor he has spattered on his family. Here, well, the principle of governance Capalla wants to see is pakapakan.

They want us to pray for peace in the name of Jesus Christ, the prince of peace? Well, if I recall my Bible, Christ did not turn the other cheek when he saw the merchants in the temple, he flailed at them, shouting: "My temple is a house of prayer, but you have made it into a den of thieves!"

The lesson there is not just that Christ's concept of peace does not preclude anger. It's also that temples can always be turned into dens of thieves.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2007

## OPINION



## Albayanos meet climate change challenge head on

I WAS IN LEGAZPI CITY RECENTLY TO ATTEND the first National Conference on Climate Change Adaptation organized by Albay's dynamic Gov. Joey Sarte Salceda, and I must congratulate him for the successful undertaking. As he put it all over the world climate change is no longer being debated. The fact that the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) whose leading lights are Filipino scientists, and former US Vice President Al Gore recently shared the Nobel Peace Prize (and the \$150,000 prize money) attests to the world's acceptance of this phenomenon. In fact, the Nobel Prize served as an inspiration for the Albay conference. But what's new in the province's approach is the "adaptation" part as gleaned from its slogan, "Think Global Warming, Act Local Adaptation!" Or as the conference's executive director, Nong Rangas, put it, "The time for talk is over. The key here is local action."

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Salceda explained that Albay has been identified by the National Disaster Control Center as the most disaster-prone province, and the supertyphoons "Milenyo" and "Reming" and the deadly mud flows from Mayon have been recent grim reminders of this. Thus, he said, Albay has to adapt to this reality and seek to mitigate the disasters that hit it. "Can we Albayanos do something to help ourselves?" he said. "We say yes." From this resolve of the people came the provincial government's adoption of the prototype for local Climate Change Adaptation, known as "Albay in Action on Climate Change" (A2C2). I hope other local government units would emulate A2C2.

The Legazpi conference drew leaders from various sectors and the national and local governments, led by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro and several Cabinet members, including Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, who heads the newly formed Presidential Task Force on Climate Change, and Secretary Heherson Alvarez, who serves as co-chair with Secretary Lito Atienza of the DENR's Advisory Council on Climate Change. In addition, officials of various multilateral and United Nations agencies were also invited to help.

## POLITICAL TIDBITS

**Belinda Ollvares-Cunanan**

find funding for specific programs. The conference sought to focus on the various problems that climate change has spawned in the area of upland farming, reforestation, emergency preparedness, coastal communities, etc., as well as areas where constructive responses can make a difference. The end goal was to draft the "Albay Declaration on Climate Change Adaptation," which will, in turn, be presented as part of the Philippine position in the Bali conference in December.

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As in any conference, some highly technical topics in the Legazpi conference such as the "carbon credit market," probably went over the heads of some participants. But what I liked about that conference was that it showed the participants to be concerned about the dangers to our planet and our country of global warming, as they expressed in the open forum. Moreover, many steps adopted were practical and doable, and I will discuss them in future columns. For instance, Salceda has ordered the showing of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" in all schools in Albay, so that schoolchildren would be prepared early for the task of saving their province and the planet. Environmental issues have also been incorporated into the curriculum. In addition, the provincial board has passed a number of resolutions aimed at cleaning up the atmosphere, like one calling on the National Power Corp. to sell only clean energy and another discouraging cement factories from using open-burning and asking them to use only rice husks in their kilns.

Salceda worked very hard to promote this conference, which drew a significant number of participants from as far as Mindanao. He deserves

## Sumilao redux

## HUMAN FACE

**Ma Ceres P Dojo**

decision and approved the land's conversion

Things came to a head at this juncture. Much had been written, blood had been shed, a lot of intervention had been made. The farmers' long and life-threatening hunger strike in front of the DAR office sparked a lot of interest and sympathy for them. Ramos issued a "win-win solution" which would allot 100 ha for the farmers and 44 ha for the Quisumbings.

Sadly, in 1999, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Quisumbings. Ramos' win-win solution was thrown out because of technicalities and the farmers were reduced to mere "recommendee farmer beneficiaries," meaning they have no real interest over the land. No real interest over the land?

Well, after many years, the 144-ha land has not been converted into what its supposed owners had planned, it has been sold to the Cojuangco-owned San Miguel Foods Inc.

This is how things looked recently. The Mapalad-Sumilao farmers and the San Vicente Landless Farmers Association have filed a Petition for the Cancellation of the Conversion Order against the Quisumbings and/or SMFI before the DAR. The farmers argued that more than five years had passed since the conversion order but no development work had been done on the land. They further argued that converting the place into a hog farm would violate the conditions in the conversion order.

Last September, the Higaonon began a campaign to reclaim the land with a pananghi ritual. They sought the help of church leaders even while military and police forces descended on

their area and raided their multi-purpose center. It's back to square one.

Last Oct. 2, the Office of the President dismissed the farmers' appeal.

This chronicle of events is definitely from the claimants' point of view. I have written about this case a number of times over the years, and I am not afraid to say that I am biased in the farmers' favor. This is not the end of the farmers' struggle. A "Walk for Sumilao, Walk for Justice" is underway. It's a long road ahead.

A reader writes to express her disgust over the news coverage of last week's Glorietta mall explosion that killed 11 and injured more than 100. I agree with her views. I have myself been outraged by the way on-the-spot broadcast news coverage and emergency-room journalism are conducted by insensitive journalists.

"Writing you is my way to vent my disappointment over some broadcast journalists over the way they gather news." Please bear with me.

"In the aftermath of the Glorietta explosion, one radio report came from the field and all the guy had to say was: 'Hala hindi makapagsalita ang ina ni Maureen so sinapit ng kanyang anak. Binibugyan na syang tubig...' Then, he popped the question to a relative (I suppose) 'Ano ho ang narararamdam niyo...'"

"I mean, can't this guy be a little less idiotic? I am outraged by the lack of respect people like him in media show to victims and survivors of tragedy. They who rave and rant about censorship, press freedom, etc. are so insensitive as to make a spectacle out of people's inexplicable grief! What about the freedom to privacy? For some members of the media, everything and everyone is fair game so long as they could fill the airwaves, and scream their headlines."

"Pardon my ranting. I should stop here before I begin to sound like them."

Send feedback to [cerespd@info.com.ph](mailto:cerespd@info.com.ph)

## Political leprosy

## THE LONG VIEW

**Manuel L. Quezon III**

warned, "begets reproach with hatred."

This is why, as the INQUIRER editorial the other day pointedly put it, the President operating a cash bar complete with doggie bags for her political pals has so soured the public mood. Even traditional politicians allied with the President were shocked, though dismayed may be a more appropriate description of their feelings. Their feelings of dismay have been building up since the May elections, when they slowly began to realize their gambling on the status quo had had the opposite effect they intended. They thought that sticking by the President would somehow ensure stability; instead, it hastened the mutation of traditional politics to an extent that has begun to frighten the traditional politicians.

Their fear has nothing to do with idealism and everything to do with an increasingly troubling reality. A President who sees cash as the solution to all problems creates a larger problem, each time cash is presented as a solution, the next problem will require even more cash; and even if the President leaves the scene, the landscape has been permanently altered by her promiscuity when it comes to handing out cash. Politicians expect that even when cash can solve a problem, eloquence and appeals to the public can solve problems, too. But if the only solution is cash, then politics is reduced to an auction.

A glib tongue and hair-rasing speechifying, the things that foster the illusion that leaders and followers are engaged in more than extortion, can't be utilized anymore. This is where her political allies find themselves, now. Leaders thought that in league with the President their cash bar cover

nance was building genuine support; instead, they are beginning to see that what they have built is a political culture where it doesn't matter what you say, only what you are willing to pay. Having desensitized the public, they can never recover the use of eloquence as an antidote to the public's appetite for motivational bribes. Every politician is a student of power; and the lesson here is that they are in a trap of their own making.

Should the public decide that it prefers genuine leadership to leaders who bribe their constituents, it has to turn to new leaders. Money may make the world go round, but even a beggar for favors has pride. The difference is between handing out cash to a beggar, and throwing the money into a gutter and breezily telling the beggar to fish the money out of the sum. This is the fine line the President and her people have crossed.

Unmerciful when it comes to her critics, unfaithful to her allies, inhumane in that compassion is her least defining characteristic as a leader, dishonest instead of upright in how she wields the law or manages the bureaucracy and the military, and a plain hypocrite instead of being genuinely religious as shown by her cultivating bishops as if they were congressmen in cassocks, the President has lost the appearance of virtue which was the bedrock of her continued claim to position.

A foreign journalist recently asked me if the present revelations, from the poaching of the Speaker's sphere of influence to the sight of congressmen waddling out of the Palace with doggie bags of cash to governors falling over themselves trying to explain their doggie bags, too, were worse than the allegations of electoral manipulation. Yes, I said, not because I think so, but because the public obviously thinks so.

The President can clutch at economic statistics as if they were so many straws, but it has begun to dawn on the public that a nation kept afloat by remittances now sees those remittances shrinking in value, and salaries abroad shrinking in turn, and a vicious cycle is in place to which the President has no answer except a dogged insistence on dirty deals.

## My parents' child

A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, MY QUESTION OF THE DAY for my Psychology 101 classes was: "What do you admire most about your parents?"

I was unexpectedly touched by my students' answers, especially those mentioning how patient and loving their parents are to them, how sweet they are to each other, and how strong their marital bond is. I realized that I cherished such answers precisely because I

haven't experienced them myself. My parents have never been my main support group or my cheerleaders or my biggest fans. Their marriage

is not walk in the park either. In fact, even if there is an enduring love and partnership, it is also wrought with complications and drama (including tense, almost surreal, family meetings)

In other words, our home has never been a sanctuary—our house on Calla Lily Street as a shelter from the world's harshness exists only in my wildest dreams.

Papa's voice used to startle me; his anticipated criticisms intimidated me. I also couldn't understand his silence although my desire to be able to get through that silence died only when he died.

As for Mama, she has never been an "earth mother" who cooks one's favorite meals or a ready source of soothing words for a child in pain. Actually, she can be tactless (to the point of being searing) when she gives advice, often making me shake my head and say, "Why did I ask her in the first place?"

Instead of being a forthcoming father and a nurturing mother, my parents were something else.

Almost a year ago, as we were on our way to our annual Christmas celebration with the Ailonuevos, Mama told us about her charm bracelet and how it protected her from bad vibes/evil spirits. The logic of her claim was lost on me, so I chuckled and said that it didn't make sense to me that a bracelet would have such power. Papa smiled, and I interpreted it as full agreement with what I said.

My differences from Papa were always more salient to me, but I now realize that my firm belief in empiricism and my attempts to exercise rigor in the academe and in everyday life came from him, not from Mama. Papa always set high standards—for himself and for others. I remember that as a child, I saw many scary red marks on students' bluebooks. Mama and Papa's still recount to this day how Papa lamented his students' poor English. Despite this, Papa actually had a laissez faire philosophy in raising us: we could do what we wanted to do and he only had to be informed of these choices.

Conversely, my similarities to Mama have always been more obvious than our differences. Many people say I remind them so much of my mother. My lolo (Mama's daddy) himself once mistook me for my mother as I entered his home. Yes, my mother and I are two peas in a pod: we look the same, have similar gestures and the same passion for books and for learning. But we have many differences, too. Her fascination with charm bracelets and such is the most glaring one. Another is that I am not as impulsive and energetic as she is. While I also like exploring the world and experiencing other places and other cultures, I am less spontaneous and more reserved in my curiosity and drive.

Finally, a little note on one similarity between my parents. Both were social scientists who weren't trapped in an ivory tower. They not only taught economics and sociology, they were (and Mama still is) also dedicated to social change. In other words, their NGO, government and even international work always involved empowering others and cultivating better communities and societies. For them, the social is the political. Even my birth was framed by Papa as "bunga ng tunggalan at kaisahan, tunggalan at kaisahan da la pagmamahal sa isla ng sa sambyan."

What does this mean? That I have an unshakable "nationalistic-activist" (instead of Catholic) guilt! I have often thought about working in a publishing house in Europe and living a life of serenity and beauty (Oh, oh! The trees, the cultural events, the wonderfully temperate climate!), but until now, I cannot silence the voice in my head that tells me leaving my country is a form of betrayal. This also means that I am easily moved to tears when I hear discussion about what Filipinos can do for the Philippines.

My parents didn't give me hugs. Neither did they give me endless encouragement whenever I failed. They didn't hold my hand when I was recovering from a break up or middle-class guilt (which is not entirely similar to the other type of guilt I mentioned, although they have points of intersection). They never told me what to do (except for my mother's explicit, "Stay and teach in UP. You owe it to the taxpayers who financed your UP education!"). Nope, no plainly-stated pearls of wisdom from Mama and Papa (another exception: Mama's "Huwag ka na lang mag-asawa")

Instead they gave me an independent mind-set, an intelligent and inquiring mind to go with it, and an idealism that I am having difficulty shaking off. Not the usual gifts one would get from parents, I suppose, but I am a grateful daughter. What they have given me weren't what I originally wanted, but I treasure what they have passed on to me and take heart in the knowledge that I am truly my parents' child.

Krupskaya Medel Ailonuevo, 27, teaches Psychology at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. Being a fan of Evolutionary Psychology, she believes that her similarities to her parents, though partly environmental, are largely genetic.

## IN THE NEWS



Gov. Eddie Panlilio

## What if gov didn't take cash gift?

THOSE WHO ARE SAYING THAT Among Ed (Pampanga's Gov. Ed Panilio) did wrong in accepting the bundle of cash (P500,000), given to him in Malacañang last Oct. 11, do not see what could have been the scenario had he refused to receive the money.

Imagine the complexion of the scandal had he refused to accept the money and somebody else blew the whistle? How would he convince the people that he was not similarly given? How would

he make everybody believe him? I myself would have doubted his words.

When Among Ed accepted the money, I believe there was divine intervention. His act was guided by the Holy Spirit.

Many of our leaders, past and present, may have been or may be endowed with the greatness of Nebuchadnezzar; some, with the authoritative power of Pilate; others with the arrogance of Herod. But Among Ed, I believe,

has been endowed with the simplicity of John the Baptist, the obedience of Abraham, the courage of Moses, the faith of Mary and, on that occasion, the wisdom of Solomon.

To the noisy ones who think that he did wrong, here are some questions: What would you have rather done in that same situation? How would you have handled it?

—NOEL D. UNSON, whirlpoolheart501@yahoo.com

## A mite for widow of heroic Samar policeman

ON SEPT. 17, 2009, THE INQUIRER published the plea of Nelita Diocampo, widow of P/Cpl. Tirso Diocampo, who was killed in 1984 defending the police station of MacArthur, Eastern Samar against an NPA attack. For 23 long years, she pleaded for compassion from the Government Service Insurance System in its relentless pursuit for payment of the housing loan she inherited from her late husband. This loan had ballooned to around P239,000 from the original amount of about P42,000.

She felt that if her husband paid for his life in defense of his country, the least his country could do for her and her children, was to condone his GSIS housing loan. The loss of her husband caused her and her children untold grief, suffering and hardship. In fact, one of her children died because she could not afford the medical treatment needed. But instead of extending a compassionate hand, our government, through the

GSIS, has added—and continues to add—to this grief, suffering and hardship, by its relentless demand of exacting its pound of flesh from her in the payment of her inherited housing loan debt, despite repeated pleas and letters from her.

The GSIS replied in a letter, which the Inquirer also published in its Sept. 24 issue, that it had magnanimously restructured the Diocampo loan ... 21 years after the policeman's death! But it skirted the issue of condonation and gleefully mentioned that Mrs. Diocampo had made partial payment on Sept. 24 to avoid loan cancellation. It likewise stood pat on its stand to exact that pound of flesh—albeit in a slow and agonizing way—through its so-called debt-restructuring.

Perhaps, the GSIS should know that Diocampo had to borrow money to be able to make that partial payment. Perhaps, it should also know in defense of his country, the gallant Police Corporal Diocampo sustained bullet

wounds that measured 60 inches in diameter at entry point on the right neck and shoulder, with a bullet trajectory that plowed through his right lung, heart, left lung, and blasted an .80-inch hole exit on his left side, causing instant death. (1984 Autopsy Report of Dr. Manuel B. Japon) And finally, perhaps, it should realize that it may also be doing the equivalent damage to his widow and children by its strict insistence in exacting from them that pound of flesh, as it were. The death of one of her children indicates this.

The GSIS spends hundreds of thousands in its self-serving ads proclaiming its accomplishments, and millions more in acquiring valuable paintings and artwork. Can it not spare a mite from its billions for a hero's widow and her children?

—SAMUEL J. YAP,  
118 Granada,  
San Antonio Heights,  
Sto. Tomas, Batangas

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## Who says economy has turned around?

AS NOTED BEFORE, THE NOODLE and rice program of President Macapagal-Arroyo would fail to solve the hunger problem. The SWS surveys last November 2006 and February 2007 showed 19 percent of our population lived in hunger.

It was suggested then that a livelihood program be introduced to alleviate the sufferings of the poor of our society. Sen. Mar Roxas also said that the noodle and rice program was a temporary solution that would not solve the chronic and grave ills plaguing the country even as our peso strengthened against the US dollar. (Inquirer, 1/26/07)

SWS latest surveys showed that 21.5 percent of the population experienced hunger in the past three months—a record high of 3.8 million families. This latest finding belies the claim of our economic managers that our economy has been moving up. (Inquirer, 10/2/07) Unless the government embarks on a massive drive to increase agricultural production hand in hand with industrialization that would stop the exodus of our professionals to foreign countries, the government cannot say that our economy has turned around. A stronger peso does not necessarily mean an improved economy since it hurts the overseas Filipino workers and the exporters.

With our gargantuan external debts and with our country's propensity for borrowing from foreign countries, I am afraid that the government would burden honest taxpayers more with higher taxes while letting go of tax cheats and corrupt officials.

Quo vadis, Philippines?  
—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR., Barangay Camambagan, Daet, Camarines Norte 4600

## No way to handle stray dogs

MY HUSBAND AND I SPENT TWO and a half weeks in Boracay, getting to know the locals and their lifestyle, and enjoying every minute of it. We met so many wonderful people who treated us with kindness.

We are Americans. After reading the reactions to Hollywood's and American TV's stereotypical attitude toward Filipinos and the Philippines, I can personally say that not all Americans have that same attitude. We were prepared to tell all the wonderful stories about the warm and hospitable Filipinos. Until the last day of our stay in Boracay, a couple of hours before we were to leave for the airport.

We were having breakfast in our favorite beach-front restaurant. A new friend, a young vendor (I will omit his name for his own interests) greeted us. He was with his dog and was setting up for business that day. He gave us a big smile and said, "I hope you will come back to my country again soon."

We told him, "We hope to return soon," as we thanked him.

He left to get something and up pulled a van marked "Rescue" and "Coast Guard" on the side. A man with a stick with a wire noose attached walked alongside the van. What I saw after that, I could not believe. The man and a companion seized the dog, and flung it

like a rag doll into the truck, slamming it against the siding. I'll never forget the pained, shrill cries of the dog.

I rushed to the man and told him that I knew the dog's owner. He looked at me, shook his head, and looked away. They went after another dog with a collar.

If they handle dogs like this in public, what happens in private? I shuddered at the thought.

So brutal and inhumane a sight, we could watch and protest no longer.

I understand dogcatchers are necessary; they are found all over the world. But I'm certain that dogcatchers in other countries would have been shocked if they had seen what we saw.

Why not embark on a "spaying or castration program"? Instead of hiring three men to pick up and abuse animals, the money being paid for their salaries can be used to neuter dogs.

Will we go back to the Philippines? No way. If a nation wants to be respected, it must treat all of its citizens, human and otherwise, with respect. What we saw today was a barbaric and unjust act. It tarnished our impression of the Philippines. I am ashamed for Boracay. I am saddened for the dogs that will suffer the same fate as the ones we saw that day.

—KRISTIANA SPAULDING, tianatrow@yahoo.com

## Nothing wrong, not surprising

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY LITO Aduena admitted that he received from Malacañang cash gifts ranging from P100,000 to P200,000 throughout his nine years as mayor of Manila. Nothing wrong with that, he said. (Inquirer, 10/17/07)

Our environment secretary believes that "there was no cause for

the public to raise a howl over the supposed distribution of money in Malacañang on Oct. 11." And Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wonders why the Philippines is on top of the list of the most corrupt countries?

God save us.

—ELLA RAMOS, ella.ramos68@yahoo.com

## SHIP report shared with various stakeholders

THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (BAS) would like to expound on some of the points raised by Dr. Maher Mangahas in his column "A new hunger record." (Inquirer, 10/6/07)

In the middle of 2006, the government was faced with the challenge of addressing the problem of hunger which was reported to be felt by a significant number of households throughout the country. The survey of Social Weather Stations at that time placed the incidence of hunger at 13.9 percent at the national level, broken down as follows: 15 percent in the National Capital Region (NCR), 10 percent in the rest of Luzon, 19.7 percent in the Visayas and 17.3 percent in Mindanao.

It was obvious that a comprehensive government program on hunger mitigation would need information on who were going hungry, where they were situated, the main causes of hunger and what they perceived were the necessary measures to mitigate hunger. The mitigation measures needed to be site- and sector-specific. The information available at that time, however, was inadequate in this respect, to be more specific, locating the hungry down to the provincial level was not possible.

The BAS conducted the Survey of Hunger in the Philippines (SHIP) in response to the need of the Department of Agriculture for information more detailed than those available from other sources. It sought to determine the incidence of hunger for domains smaller than that of SWS (78 provinces, two chartered cities,

and four districts in the NCR).

The survey was conducted in August 2006. The major output tables were made available in October 2006 and the final report with complete set of tables, in January 2007. These reports were shared with the DA and other users such as the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) and the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Development of Hunger Index which is lodged at the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

We would like to dispel any notion that the SHIP was a confidential or a secret operation. It was conducted for a very specific purpose. The results have in fact been used for the intended purpose: in conjunction with other available information, to provide bases for the DA's hunger mitigation programs.

Neither were the results suppressed or hidden. These were shared with all parties whose interests in the results coincided with the original purpose of the survey.

The DA has a continuing hunger mitigation program on the ground. This program was designed so that the strategies and measures for mitigating hunger are balanced with other related concerns, e.g., poverty alleviation, employment generation, reducing food insecurity, broadening of production base and improving the marketing of agricultural products.

—ROMEO S. RECIDE,

director,  
Bureau of Agricultural Statistics,  
Department of Agriculture,  
Ben-Lor Bldg., Quezon Avenue, QC

## A rejoinder to Joker's 'deliberate falsehood'

IN HIS COMMENTARY TITLED "WHY, WHO IS going after the INQUIRER?" Sen. Joker Arroyo depicted the Inquirer as paranoid in responding to dangers that are imagined and preparing for enemies that "are not there" (Inquirer, 10/8/07). He said no one is going after the Inquirer. The Senate is investigating its senators, not the Inquirer, Arroyo said.

While the senator assured the Inquirer that it has nothing to fear from the Senate, he never denied threatening reporter Juliet Labog-Javellana with contempt during a privilege speech. Nay, he did not deny during the Inquirer to waive the protection of Republic Act 53 as amended.

The senator's privilege speech has a stifling effect on media. Journalists and human rights lawyers cannot really be blamed for closing ranks in protecting press freedom. Vigilance is a virtue, not a vice. It is the people's effective weapon against abuse of power.

That is the point that the senator has totally missed. The people cannot take chances in the preservation of a free press. Such a zealous regard for liberty is what limits the powerful. It reminds senators not to push their luck too far. Had the news articles and editorials in reaction to the senator's privilege speech not been printed, would he have gone so far as to dissociate the Senate and himself from the threats "perceived" against the Inquirer?

Joker not only missed the point, he likewise committed deliberate falsehood. He said the Inquirer grasped at the "off-tangent straw thrown" by a lawyer who has an "axe to grind against the Senate" because he "was barred from attending any Senate committee hear-

ings" for "unruly behavior and improper knowledge."

The lawyer's straw is off-tangent only in the point of view of an oblique mind. That lawyer has no axe to grind against the Senate. He has maintained his respect for the Senate as an institution—regardless of the profiles and reputations (altered reputation included) of most of its members.

That lawyer was not "barred from attending any Senate committee hearings." He was barred from attending hearings of only four out of 36 committees. The resolution barring him was not signed by six senators. Thus, he appeared many times before other Senate committees, including the one investigating the Bolante fertilizer scam. But why even bring that up as a motive when the lawyer is now free to attend any hearing at the Senate, the four Senate committees' resolution barring him having become functus officio?

"Unruly behavior"? Why focus on reactive behavior when the query should be on the provocative conduct of a member of the Senate who, acting like a monarch, treated a resource person as if she were his lowly subject? But then why question the obvious tolerance by the senator of the snooty and condescending behavior of his colleague? After all, they are both honorable men like members of the Senate in Caesar's time.

"Improper knowledge"? That lawyer seems to have forgotten more law than what most honorable members of the Senate may learn for the rest of their remaining years.

—FRANK CHAVEZ,  
117 Gamboa St.,  
Legazpi Village, Makati City

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# Libya offers to host talks with MILF

COTABATO CITY—LIBYA HAS OFFERED TO HOST peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Libyan President Moammar Gadhafi was influential in the decision of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to sign a peace agreement with the government in 1996.

#### Ambassador's message

Eid Kabalu, MILF civil-military relations chief, said Libya's desire to host the peace negotiations was relayed to them by former Libyan Ambassador to

the Philippines Salem Adem.

Kabalu said Adem also told MILF leaders during a meeting yesterday that Saif Al-Islam Gadhafi, said to be his father's successor, wanted to meet Mindanao leaders in a bid to consolidate efforts that would lead to a peace agreement.

"He wanted the meeting through the facilitation of the MILF to happen before the year ends. Of course, it will be closely coordinated with the government," Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

ment," Kabalu told the INQUIRER. **Impatience**

The government is becoming impatient too at the pace the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is moving, a Malacauang official said yesterday.

Earlier, the MILF said it is becoming edgy because of what it sees as government-insinuated delays bounding the resumption of the peace talks.

"If the MILF and other stakeholders were impatient, the government is more so because the problem on peace and order is basic to development," Secretary Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on

the peace process, said in an interview with radio station dxMS here.

#### Best efforts

But Dureza said the government was trying its best to forge a final peace deal with the rebels and that the only way to achieve this is through negotiations.

He also said that the help of every Filipino is needed so that peace would eventually be achieved on the island.

"The peace negotiations are everybody's concern, your concern, my concern, our concern because we are the stakeholders," Dureza said.

Government and MILF negoti-

tors have resumed their executive meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday in a bid to break the deadlock in the negotiations.

#### KL meeting

The deadlock was caused by disagreements over the issue on territory with the MILF insisting on the inclusion of at least 1000 villages in the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity (BJE) without preconditions.

The government is steadfast on its position that only about 600 villages could be provisionally included in the discussion for territory.

The government also said that the final composition of the territory would depend on the

outcome of a plebiscite to be called for that purpose.

"I'm optimistic they will be able to hurdle some of the contentious issues so we can resume formal talks," Dureza said.

#### Deal with MNLF

The 1996 peace agreement with the MNLF led to the forming of the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA) and the assumption into office by MNLF chair Nur Misuari as governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

*Edwin Fernandez, Charlie Sefasse and Jeoffrey Matem, Inquirer Mindanao*

## 500 families flee homes as soldiers, NPAs clash

By Carla P. Gomez  
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—AT LEAST 500 families from a mountain village in Calatrava, Negros Occidental fled their homes in the wake of clashes between the military and communist rebels.

The families, who feared getting caught in the crossfire, have evacuated to the town proper and have been given shelter by the municipal government, according to provincial social welfare officer Liane Garcia.

The gunfights had been going on since Monday, after suspected rebels ambushed and wounded two members of a patrol team of soldiers.

Calatrava Mayor Alfonso Baguio Jr. said some 3,000 residents of Barangays Macasilao, Hilub-ang and Cruz evacuated after the rebel ambush on government soldiers on Monday.

Most of the evacuees came from Barangay Hilub-ang (2,288 persons) while the rest came from Macasilao (500 persons) and Cruz (143 persons).

Baguio said food assistance had been provided to the evacuees who started arriving in the town center on Monday afternoon.

Early Tuesday, soldiers and suspected rebels engaged in 15-minute gun battle in the boundary of Barangs Macasilao and Menchaca, said Maj. Nathaniel Villasor, 303rd Infantry Brigade Civil Military Operations chief.

Villasor said soldiers received reports that two female rebels were killed during the clash but their comrades brought along their bodies.



**SETTLEMENT**

Because of increasing prices of land and lack of opportunities in the rural areas, landless Filipinos opted to build their shacks along seashores in urban areas, like this one in Piapi Boulevard, Davao City.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

## Mindanao railway plan revived in talks

DAVAO CITY—THE IDEA TO put up a Mindanao railway system was revived anew here with a foreign company expressing interest to pour in funds to help finance the project.

The Mindanao railway system has long been a dream among Mindanao officials but the idea failed to take-off even with the aggressive support of then Sen. Santanina Rasul.

But on Tuesday during the continuation of the East Asian Growth Area (EAGA) Investment Conference here, London-based MCC Capital Projects Ltd. expressed interest to start a feasibility study on the Mindanao railway system.

EAGA is an economic grouping involving Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

#### Break

Antonio Santos, BIMP-EAGA Business Council (BEBG) chair, said in his report to the BIMP-EAGA 15th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) that formally opened Tuesday at the Marco Polo Hotel here that the idea was already discussed between him and Paisal Kasim, MCC chief executive officer.

Santos said Mindanao Business Council (MinBC) chair Vicente Lao was also present during the discussion that centered on the mechanisms of the proposal.

While Lao has proposed that the project will be undertaken under a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme but Kasim expressed preference for joint-venture agreements with local government units (LGUs).

Under Kasim's proposal, LGUs would put up 60 percent of the funds needed for the construction of the railway system while his company will take charge of the remaining 40 percent.

Santos said Kasim also suggested that to make things easier, LGUs could form a corporation.

#### Closer to goal

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While LGUs have yet to commit, Santos said MCC was expecting to conduct a study on the project by next month.

Aside from the railway project, Santos also reported that at least 20 possible partnerships between EAGA members have been discussed.

These included property development—including housing development projects, joint ventures in mining projects, biodiesel and seafood processing.

Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao

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# INQUIRER Southern Luzon

## Gender equality in scouts jamboree

By Nina Catherine Calleja  
Los Baños, Laguna

**D**ESPITE INTERMITTENT RAINS, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) kicked off its 14th National Jamboree on Oct. 23 with fun and "learning-by-doing" activities, which incorporate lessons ranging from public governance to making of handicraft specialties from different regions.

At least 17,000 boys and senior scouts from all over the country are participating in the five-day event. They have put up tents at the 54-hectare campsite at the Philippine Scouting Center for Asia-Pacific Region in the 1,100-meter Mt. Makiling.

The BSP is the largest uniformed youth organization in the country and the third largest in the world with a membership of 2.7 million.

Female young scouts, called the Roverettes and numbering over 100, and senior scoutmasters have joined the boys in the "extreme challenges," such as elephant walk, net wall crossing, rope tunnel, spider web and swinging rubber tire.

### Female scouts

The inclusion of the female scouts is in line with the scouts' aim of gender equality, said Bobby Manzano, BSP public relations committee chair.

"Some girls are really interested in what the boy scouts are doing," Manzano said. The BSP is responsible for protecting the female scouts, he said.

Manzano said the scouts were taught outdoor skills, such as survival cooking, water gathering, and map and compass reading.

"Fun and adventure activities are just vehicles for the leadership skills and moral values of the young boys," he said, stressing that the BSP had been improving the quality of the scouting program.

In the "learning by doing" activity, 10 booths have been set up to accommodate an average of 1,000 scouts per booth and engaged in learning a particular lesson.

Local councils coming from 10 regions give lessons on how to make bracelets and necklaces out of decorative knots, arrange plastic flowers and plants, and assemble a cooking burner. Ernesto Baluyot, BSP camp director, said the lessons aimed to showcase the specialties of the regions and make these byproducts available



SCOUTS, both girls and boys, participate in the 14th National Jamboree in Mt. Makiling in Laguna.

PHOTOS BY NINA CATHERINE CALLEJA

to the participants.

Manzano said the activity would test how effectively the scouts could transfer their skills to other people.

The activities are in line with the theme, "Isang Mundo, Isang Pangako (One World, One Promise)," with the scouts expected to overcome barriers of differing cultures, creeds and ideologies.

While some boys were engaged in handicrafts, 23 scouts were having a small-group forum dubbed "Kapehan sa Jamboree." They discussed pressing issues and their community involvement and responsibilities.

John Carlo Reyes, who is from Laguna, said being a scout was not just wearing the uniform but applying values and skills in interacting with people and helping the community.

Another scout from Valenzuela City, John Carlo Zabala, said that by joining the Governance Camp, he was exposed to issues of graft and corruption in the country. A high school student, Zabala has volunteered to join anticorruption groups.

"LEARN by doing" handicrafts is among the lessons being taught in the five-day scouts jamboree.



"Being a boy scout is living up to the duties of a good citizen," he said.

The Governance Camp is a project established by the Ten Outstanding Boy Scouts of the Philippines Association (Tobspa) in

2005. It aims to involve the youth in campaigns against graft and corruption.

On Friday, the BSP will choose the Ten Outstanding Boy Scouts of the Philippines from among 26 finalists from different regions.

**BRUCE** Willis Sing shows his medal to the media upon arrival at the Nala 2, Sing was voted Most Outstanding Boy Scout of the Asia-Pacific held in Tokyo, Japan on Oct. 18-20, 2007.

JESS YUSON



## Historical lighthouse in Calatagan needs rehabilitation

By Marlon Alexander Luistro  
Calatagan, Batangas

**I**N THE EARLY DAYS OF MARITIME travel, the lighthouse of Cape Santiago safely guided international shipping vessels crossing the Verde Island Passage, San Bernardino Strait and Manila Bay.

Also known as the Faro de Punta Santiago, the 51-foot tower on a cliff was established by the Spanish authorities in the 1890s, which modeled it after the medieval castles in Europe.

Old-timers believe that Cape Santiago was used as a Japanese camp during World War II. It had an underground tunnel that led straight to the sea.

Made of bricks and lime cement, the red structure has withstood earthquakes, typhoons and other natural calamities, including the ravages of the Filipino-Spanish, Filipino-American and Filipino-Japanese wars.

Today, however, the lighthouse is no longer open to the public. No roads lead to it since the adjacent lands are now privately owned. Its state of neglect and dilapidation has prompted the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA) to restore it to its original design.

### Guide

"The lighthouse is the oldest remaining structure in Calatagan today. Aside from promotion as tourism site, Cape Santiago will be a perfect gift to the town's centennial celebration in 2011," said Lt. Col. Derrick Manas of the 501st PCGA Squadron, who heads the Task Force Lighthouse.

The PCGA wants to promote Cape Santiago as the "cultural center of Calatagan," where people can hold concerts, beauty pageants, graduations, stage plays, photography and painting sessions, and other events.

Its squadron also plans to transfer its



THE CAPE Santiago Lighthouse, also known as Faro de Punta Santiago, in Calatagan, Batangas, is now deteriorating. Efforts to restore the structure are under way.

headquarters to the lighthouse.

Lighthouses are not only popular tourist attractions though. They also serve as compass for vessels in the high seas. Usually, they are found along shallow coastal areas.

"When the US captured the Philippines from Spain in 1898, the Americans inherited close to 60 lighthouses and minor lights built by the Spanish colonial authorities," said American author Russ Rowlett in an article that appeared in the University of North Carolina website.

While many of the major Spanish lighthouses have survived and still in service, others have been ruined, Rowlett said. The website listed 27 major lighthouses in the Philippines, including the Pulo Caballo in Corregidor, Siete Pecados in Panay, and Cape Bojeador in Ilocos Norte.

In Batangas, there are Cape Santiago in Calatagan and Cape Malabriga in Lobo.

Like old churches and houses, Manas said, Cape Santiago has long been abandoned. Nobody maintained and preserved its natural beauty. Its original light source is missing; an automatic light bulb donated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency switches on at sunset and off at sunrise.

The light device on top of the tower, reached by a long, winding flight of stairs, is no longer being used because it is very costly to operate it, Manas said.

On April 18, 1995, the PCG, under then Commodore Arturo Capada, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with former Batangas Gov. Jose Antonio Leviste, president of the Resort Association of the

Philippines Inc. (Rapi), to develop Cape Santiago as a tourism site.

But the group has failed to do its task for the past 12 years and even reclaimed sea portions "unauthorized by the MOU," Manas said. An internal report issued by then PCG Capt. Alejandro Flora on June 23, 2003 said Rapi had reclaimed "more or less 9,000 square meters of sea area adjacent to the Cape Santiago Lighthouse."

Flora said the MOU only authorized Rapi to "improve the existing building and develop landscape the surrounding areas."

### Undeveloped

Jessie de los Reyes, chair of the Calatagan Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council, claimed that the reclamation covered at least 1.8 hectares of sea grass beds and coral reefs, which reportedly drove away fish and other marine creatures.

The project not only affected the rich coastal resources in the area but also deprived some 300 families of their earnings from gathering sea shells and shrimps, he said.

"What really hurts is that the lighthouse was not restored but renovated. Too many alterations happened. Some of its antiques, particularly bronzes, are gone and the woods were replaced with cement," he added.

The PCG plans to terminate the contract with Rapi, Commodore Darwin Torres, PCGA commander, said in a phone interview.

"We're on top of it," he said.

On Aug. 5, the barangay council of Bagong Silang in Calatagan issued Resolution No. 14 regarding the request of the PCGA to adopt and restore Cape Santiago Lighthouse.

As soon as the municipal government approves the resolution, Manas said he would establish a Calatagan Heritage Foundation, composed of PCGA members and town residents, to help raise funds for the lighthouse rehabilitation project.

He dreams of having Cape Santiago declared a national historical monument by the National Historical Institute and a national cultural treasure by the National Museum.

**The Coast Guard Auxiliary wants to promote the Cape Santiago Lighthouse as a 'cultural center'.**

# SERBISYONG TAPAT, ABOT-KAYANG PABAHAY PARA SA LAHAT

## HOUSING FAIR II

October 23 - 25, 2007



### A Boon to the Industry



Developers recognize that the government's efforts to energize the housing sector have contributed to the current housing boom. Now, the Housing Fair may be counted as one of those efforts.

The current growth in the housing market is proving to be more sustainable than previous booms. The growth is driven by demand, both from the local and the OFW sector. The sustainability, on the other hand, is being fueled by greater responsibility among developers, especially in the risk sharing with financing institutions. Another factor is government's efforts to create a favorable climate for growth in the housing industry.

For developer Roy Calleja, Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA) national president, the housing market is one area where government involvement is a good thing.

"Whenever we see the government making an effort to do something, we are encouraged," he says.

Chief among those efforts is President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's issuance of Executive Order number 45 back in 2001, prescribing the time periods for the issuance of housing-related certifications, clearances and permits of concerned national agencies and the local government unit. This has resulted in faster approval and implementation of housing projects.

Another major initiative is the lowering of interest rates on housing loans, particularly in the Pag-IBIG Fund, the government's premier shelter financing agency. This has made housing more affordable to a greater number of people, and is also causing a shift in the housing market. In the past, Metro Manila employees could only afford to buy homes in the suburbs. Today, the lower monthly amortizations and lower net disposable income requirement due to the decrease in interest rates plus the savings on cost of transportation have put them in the market for affordable condominium units in the city.



And now the Housing Fair program is proving to be another such boon, not just to home buyers but also to the housing industry. Now on its second year, the program allows government shelter agencies and GF's to sell their foreclosed assets at favorable terms to low- and middle-income employees.

"The idea is very good. I think the government should do this more often. Disposing of foreclosed assets has not been given enough attention in the past, and it's dragging the shelter financing system," Calleja states.

"In doing this, you are not only providing homes for those who need it, but you're also making the financial institutions healthy," he adds.

With all these things, plus the continued teamwork between government and the private sector, the sunny days in the housing sector could indeed last longer. Of course, the person at the helm of the sector has also been a key factor.

"Having the number two person in the land heading housing is a something very important. Things move a lot faster," Calleja says.

"Vice President Noli De Castro has been working silently, efficiently, without much fanfare. He has allowed this system of openness, of mutual help between the developers' group and the government. Everything has been improving because of the openness of both developers and the government to dialogue. It's a joint realization that we have to help each other."

### Turning More Workers Into Home Buyers

Response to the very first Housing Fair, held last year at the Glorietta Mall, was so enthusiastic that Vice President Noli de Castro, Chairman of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), decided to extend the event by one day to accommodate the number of people who were interested in buying a house from among the foreclosed properties being offered on sale.

The success of the event, coupled with insistent demand by the public, has prompted the HUDCC to organize Housing Fair II, to be held from October 23 to 25, 2007 at the Megatrade Hall I of the SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Participating this year are the Home Guaranty Corp., Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp., National Housing Authority, Pag-IBIG Fund, Social Housing Finance Corp., the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

With the theme 'Serbisyon Tapat, Abot-Kayang Pabahay para sa Lahat' the Fair will be open to government and private sector employees, as well as OFWs.

Over 40,000 foreclosed properties and acquired assets will be offered on sale at discounted prices, with interest rates as low as 6% per annum and repayment period as long as 30 years.

Actual discounts and terms for the sale of properties vary, depending on the seller agency or institution.

Private developers will also offer brand new housing units in their respective projects.

According to the Vice President, the Housing Fair is now going to be yearly event.

"As the economy continues to improve, we expect to see additional families every year that will be able to afford to buy their own home, whether it's a foreclosed property, or a brand new unit from one of the housing developers. The Housing Fair will be something for them to look forward to" he said.

For more information, please contact the following Housing Fair secretariat offices:  
NCR - (02)8114122/ 8126495; Baguio - (074)4433338; Legazpi - (052)8205344;  
Iloilo - (033)3350665; Cebu - (032)2341450;  
Davao - (082)2224322; Cagayan De Oro - (0882)2725965



### Home at Last

The Bobis family has been renting for ten years - moving from one apartment to another, in different cities. Now, thanks to the Housing Fair, they are well and truly settled.

On October 27 and 28 last year thousands of people lined up inside the Glorietta mall for the first Housing Fair organized by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, hoping to take advantage of the discounted prices and low interest housing loans on more than 50,000 foreclosed housing units being offered by various government agencies and financing institutions.

Jessica Bobis, housewife and mother of three, was one of those people.

Jessica's family had been renting for almost ten years in Sta. Mesa, Manila, Quezon City and Caloocan City before her husband Bienvenido, or "Ben," heard of the Pag-IBIG Fund's Rent-to-Own program (RTO). They found a place in San Mateo, Rizal being offered under the program that suited their needs.

The Housing Fair came at just the right time for them. Since the last they had been renting at low monthly rates for almost five years in an acquired property of Pag-IBIG, they could buy it through a housing loan under the terms of Housing Fair program.

They were very good terms. Pag-IBIG offered a 15% discount off the appraised value for units acquired through a housing loan. The interest rate is only 6% per annum from the lowest loan value up to P2 million, unlike the graduated rates under the Fund's regular housing loan program. Maximum repayment period was 30 years.

Ben, now a Pag-IBIG Overseas Program (POP) member, completed the requirements for their housing loan while on vacation. "Mabilis naman yung pagpursua ng Pag-IBIG kapag mabait ang mga empleyado," Jessica recalls.

Now the Bobis family is among the more than 2,000 families whose loans have been taken out by Pag-IBIG through the Housing Fair program since last year. And they are truly thankful.

"Dahil sa programa ni Vice President Noli De Castro na Housing Fair, naghantong kawili ng pagkakataon na mal-han ang bayan na ito, sa napakaraniang halaga at napakabangang interes," Jessica says.

"Masasabing arin na ito, ang kailangan lang mabayaran namin," she adds.

After a decade of moving from one place to another, they are now home.





WELCOAT forward Nic Belasco (center) carves some space in a battle for possession against the Red Bull pair of Carlo Sharma (left) and Celino Cruz in their game last night.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

## PHILIPPINE CUP

# Phone Pals rip Kings; Bulls score

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)  
4:35 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Alaska  
7:20 p.m.—Purefoods vs Magnolia

By Musong R. Castillo

MAC CARDONA, PRODDED BY HIS COACH to change his game to adapt to the relaxed rules, tossed in 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead Talk 'N Text to a 111-102 decision of Barangay Ginebra last night in the Philippine Cup eliminations.

After getting tossed around in their last outing, Cardona bounced back and took the Phone Pals along for the ride as Talk 'N Text also rebounded from a bad beating to improve to 2-1 at the Araneta Coliseum.

"In the last two days of practice, I kept telling them that the most important thing right now is how we bounce back," Plumaren said, referring to their 112-96 loss to Purefoods as a time they were "raped and mangied."

"I told them that when you get in there, I don't want to see you asking for fouls," he added. "I think that's the way we have to adjust. Instead of crying, asking for fouls, come back and play defense."

Cardona did change the way he played, but almost lost his head on a couple of occasions before bursting the defending champions.

He scored 10 points in the second period and then had eight of his total in fourth as the Phone Pals broke away with several 18-point leads to cushion a desperate rally by the Kings, who dropped to an even 1-1.

Earlier, Juntiny Valenzuela scored 27 points, including 16 in the first seven minutes of the fourth period, to key a Red Bull breakaway and an 86-75 victory over Welcoat.

The 6-foot-2 swingman left with most of the scoring load after the departure of three key players to trades last year, outscored the entire Welcoat team in that span to gift the Bulls their first win in two games.

"I am just ready trying to step up in their absence," Valenzuela told reporters in Filipino, referring to Enrico Villanueva, Lany Fonacier and Lordy Tugade, who found their way to San Miguel.

The Scores:

First Game

RED BULL 86—Valenzuela 27, Pennisi 12, Sharma 11, Robinson 8, Baguio 8, Cruz 5, Adriano 5, Buglio 4, Membrete 3, Hirahak 3, Andaya 0, Majorda 0.

WELCOAT 76—Devance 19, Belasco 17, Hayes 11, Walwright 10, Ibanez 6, Dulay 4, Arana 2, Bagulon 2, Gelig 2, Lopez 2, Ballesteros 0, Sta. Maria 0.

Quarters: 19-16, 35-42, 62-56, 86-75

Second Game

TALK 'N TEXT 111—Cardona 20, Alapeg 17, Belano 17, Tiuilo 13, Taulava 10, Washington 9, Carey 9, Allado 8, Da Ocampo 6, Aljami 2

BARANGAY GINEBRA 102—Tubid 22, Reavis 15, Salvacion 13, Mamail 12, Macapaga 11, Aradi 10, Heiterbrand 10, Holper 5, Lao 4, Aquino 0, Escalona 0, Abarrientos 0.

Quarters: 29-28, 52-51, 82-71, 111-102

## Avena forges duel vs Park

GEN TRIAS, CAVITE—ABF AVENA OF MT. Maarayat parred the last hole to beat Rodeo Mangulabnan of Northwoods, 1 up, yesterday and set up a semifinal meeting with defending champion Park Jung-soo even as Lino Magpantay and Marty Ilagan also advanced in the men's division of the National Tournament of Club Champions presented by HSBC and INQUIRER GOLF.

The 12th seeded Avena came back from three holes down to forge a tie on the 17th then hit a knock-down 6-iron from the rough well enough to reach the green and secure the winning par. Mangulabnan bogeyed from the hazard.

Magpantay, playing for Summit Point, hit a "career shot" on the dreaded 18th hole of the Eagle Ridge's Faldo course—an against-the-wind 5-iron that landed just six feet of the flag—to oust the favored Iggy Tuason of Sta. Elena, 1 up.

"It felt so good," said Magpantay, a successful realtor, of the big shot that gave him another upset win after disposing of third seed Raffy Garcia of Forest Hills in the first round Tuesday.

The 61 year-old next faces Marty Ilagan of Manila Southwoods who survived Iggy Clavencia of Alabang, 2 up.



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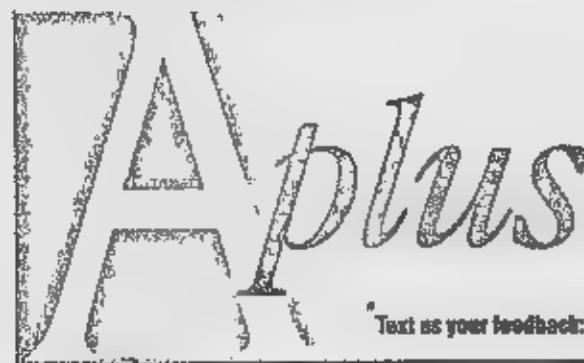
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# METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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# Murder raps vs Gonzalez

## DOJ reverses dismissal of charges against trader in stepbrother's slay

By Leila B. Salaverria

ACTING JUSTICE SECRETARY AGNES DEVANADERA has reversed the findings of a Manila prosecutor who earlier recommended the dismissal of the charges filed against businessman Luis Gonzalez and his driver, Antonio Buenafior, in connection with the death of Gonzalez's stepbrother and the attack on his companion last March.

In her Oct. 15 resolution, Devanadera ordered the filing within 10 days of charges of murder and less physical injuries against Gonzalez and Buenafior who are accused of killing Federico Delgado and mauling Annalisa Pesico inside Delgado's house in Malate, Manila last March 10.

She noted that Pesico had positively identified the two as the persons who stabbed Delgado and then mauled her before locking her up in a closet.

"Consistent with the established jurisprudence on the matter, the positive identification of respondents as the perpetrators has to prevail over their denials and alibis," she said.

"While respondents and their witnesses may have claimed that (Gonzalez and Buenafior) were elsewhere when the offenses were committed, there is nonetheless no clear and convincing evidence showing that it was truly impossible for them to be at the scene of the crimes and commit them. The possibility is not foreclosed that indeed they could have been there and have committed the offenses charged," Devanadera added.

In recommending the dismissal of the complaints against the two suspects, acting City Prosecutor of Manila Cielito Luyan said that "unbiased and disinterested witnesses" had testified that Gonzalez was at the Makati Medical Center before, during and after his stepbrother's death.

He noted that there was another witness who corroborated Buenafior's statement that he was in a restaurant on Roxas Boulevard when Gonzalez was killed.

But according to Devanadera, Luyan himself said that it would not have been impossible for Gonzalez to be at the crime scene and then return to the hospital. The same could also be said of his driver, he added.

"The positive and categorical identification of respondents by complainant Annalisa, which we find to be more credible than bare denial and alibi, more than meets the quantum of evidence necessary in a preliminary investigation," the Justice official said.

The INQUIRER tried to reach the families of both Gonzalez and Delgado for comment, but calls to their cell phones were unanswered.

## MMDA, Ynares hold talks on Metro trash

By Jeannette I. Andrade  
and Kristine L. Alave

METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority Chair Bayani Fernando and Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III will discuss today the agency's request for the province to accommodate garbage from the metropolis for six more months.

Ynares' spokesperson, Fernan Angeles, said they expect a Malacañang official "to mediate" the talks between the Rizal provincial government and the MMDA.

The governor earlier announced that the recently opened Rodriguez landfill would accommodate the waste generated by Metro Manila residents only until today.

Ynares said the 19-hectare dump was for the province's exclusive use and the MMDA should start looking for alternative dumps or

MMDA/A18

### Did you know?

THE AMERICAN colonial government in the Philippines established in 1901 the Insular Museum of Ethnology, Natural History and Commerce. It is now known as the National Museum of the Philippines.

The museum complex located in Ermita, Manila, includes the former Legislative Building and the former Department of Finance building.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Website: www.inquirer.net/metro

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# Security measures in place for November holidays

By Alison W. Lopez,  
Julie M. Aurelio  
and Tina G. Santos

**POLICE IN SOME PARTS OF** Metro Manila have already put in place security measures for the observance of All Saints' Day on Nov. 1 and All Souls' Day on Nov. 2.

Several roads near cemeteries in Manila will be closed to traffic, the Manila Police District Traffic Enforcement Unit said yesterday.

MPDTEU chief, Supt. Roberto de la Rosa, said public utility vehicles would be rerouted while certain parking areas would be designated for the convenience of people visiting their loved ones in the city's cemeteries.

Roads near Manila cemeteries like Aurora Boulevard from Dimasalang to Rizal Avenue, Blumentritt from Rizal to Bonifacio to R. Guevarra, Dimasalang from Makiling to Blumentritt, Retiro from Dimasalang to Blumentritt, R. Guevarra from Cavite to Pampanga and L. Rivera from Cavite to Bulacan would also be closed to traffic from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 1.

## MMDA, Ynares hold talks

develop new landfills with the private sector

Cities at the heart of Metro Manila like Makati, Pasig, Mandaluyong and San Juan are likely to be most affected by Rizal's refusal to accommodate the metro's trash because they do not have their own landfills.

Meanwhile, Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo, who earlier figured in a standoff with Ynares over the operation of the 14-hectare landfill in his town, warned that he would close both dumps if the MMDA and Metro Manila mayors do not enter into an agreement directly with him.

At a press conference yester-

On the other hand, Rizal Avenue, Jose Abad Santos, Tayuman, Dimasalang and Makiling Streets would remain open.

A command post manned by the Philippine National Police and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority would be put up at the Dimasalang Circle to provide assistance to the public.

Policemen would also be deployed to the North Cemetery, South Cemetery, La Loma Cemetery and the Chinese Cemetery to maintain peace and order.

Manila city health officials, meanwhile, reminded the public that vendors are prohibited from putting up stalls near the entrance and exits of cemeteries.

In Muntinlupa, around 100 policemen will be deployed to the city's six cemeteries—the Aglipayan Cemetery, Muntinlupa Public Cemetery, Putatan Cemetery, Everest Memorial Park, NBP Cemetery and the San Nicolas Cemetery in Bul.

Mayor Aldrin San Pedro has also ordered Supt. Alfredo Valdez, Muntinlupa police chief, to tell his men to watch

out for thieves who may be planning to rob houses whose residents are either visiting their dead or have gone home to their provinces.

"We will also field additional mobile cars and motorcycle units on major roads and in residential areas, churches and other establishments," Valdez said.

Subdivisions and villages, in particular, will be closely watched to prevent "Akyat Bahay" gangs from breaking into houses.

"Expect more policemen at the bus terminals to protect passengers on their way to the provinces from pickpockets and snatches," Valdez added.

The city government is working out a traffic rerouting plan to ensure smooth traffic flow in roads leading to cemeteries.

"It is important that all key agencies coordinate the smooth implementation of our security measures. We cannot afford to be lax in our 'Oplan Kataluwa' project," the mayor said.

The police also advised the public not to bring alcoholic drinks and deadly weapons to cemeteries.

From page A17

One-third of the 8,000 cu. m. of garbage generated by Metro Manila used to go to the 14-hectare landfill until Ynares ordered its closure and the waste diverted into the bigger dump.

Cuerpo, however, said the new landfill does not have any permit. Ynares earlier said that Rizal's application for an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) was approved by the Laguna Lake Development Authority on Oct. 19.

LLDA General Manager Edgar Manda, however, clarified that what he gave Ynares was not an ECC but a "temporary clearance" to operate "to cure the deficiencies" within 90 days.

## A question of trust

WHERE IN THE WORLD DO you find a government that begs a convicted grafter to accept pardon?

Only in the Philippines!

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Tulfo



Of course, GMA is already a lame-duck Chief Executive after all the issues she has been linked to like the "Hello Garcí" scandal, the NBN-ZTE scandal, the blatant distribution of bags of money to congressmen and local officials in Malacañang.

When people distrust their president, the leader can't undertake any project without incurring suspicion.

They question the leader's motive in everything he or she does.

And the result? The leader loses power over his or her subjects. He or she becomes a lame-duck.

\*\*\*

But then in politics there are no permanent friends, only permanent interests.

And since GMA is a complete politician, it is not surprising why she behaves the way she does.

And when you go against her personal interests, sorry for you!

Ask some of her former supporters and friends and you'll know what I mean.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, after reconciling with President Gloria through the mediation of former President Fidel Ramos, disagrees with the popular perception that GMA is a lame-duck president.

"She still has powers to put together big programs," JDV says.

There goes JDV with his trademark "bola" (flattery).

"Sayang," my source said.

\*\*\*

If not for President Gloria's timely intervention, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita would have gotten into a fight with Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno over the reported bribery scandal, according to a Palace source.

Ermita, the Palace source said, suspected Puno of being the "brains" behind the distribution of largesse to congressmen and local officials.

Ermita reportedly told Puno, in front of the President that the latter should have consulted him on the matter since he was on his turf.

During the heated exchange of words, the executive secretary was allegedly gearing for a fight with Puno, but the President stood in the middle.

"Sayang," my source said.

## METROBRIEFS

### Boy's body found

POLICE are investigating the death of a young boy whose body was found near a dump in Manila yesterday morning. Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling, head of the Manila Police District homicide division, said they are trying to determine the cause of death and identity of the boy, described as about 2 to 3 years old. The victim, who had bruises and bumps in the head and in different parts of the body, was clad only in a T-shirt, Yanquiling said. Investigation showed that the victim's body was found at around 6 a.m. near a pile of garbage in front of the house of Lito Catacay at 541 Road 2, Mandor Subdivision in Gagalangin, Tondo. Yanquiling said nobody in the area knew the boy, prompting him to suspect that the victim's body was just dumped there.

Tina G. Santos

### Guilty of homicide

A TR CYCLE "barker" has been convicted of homicide for the death of his neighbor in Quezon City more than two years ago. Judge Bernardo R. Fernandez of the QC Regional Trial Court Branch 97 sentenced Rolly Rolly E. Oriate, a resident of IPB Road in Batasan Hills, to 10 to 14 years in prison for stabbing to death Wenceslao Magos. The judge also ordered Oriate to pay P50,000 to the victim's family for moral damages and legal expenses. Court records showed that on Sept. 18, 2005, Oriate and Magos were drinking when they had a heated argument. The former later stabbed the victim several times using a bolo. In his defense, Oriate stressed he was plying his tricycle at the time the victim was killed. The court, however, found his alibi "weak and unacceptable" and noted that it did not show, without doubt that he was indeed somewhere else when the incident took place.

Kenneth M. del Rosario

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## The WORLD

## Turkey readies for incursion into Iraq

ANKARA—TURKISH TROOPS HAVE SHELLED suspected Kurdish rebel positions across the border in Iraq, a government official said on Wednesday before civilian and military leaders gathered to discuss the scope and duration of a possible offensive into northern Iraq.

Turkish artillery units shelled rebel positions as recently as Tuesday night after a rebel ambush on Sunday that killed 12 soldiers near the border, the official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. He did not say which areas were targeted and refused to give further information.

The official denied a newspaper report of a Turkish air strike against northern Iraq, and only confirmed shelling of rebel positions by artillery units. Iraqi Kurdish officials also confirmed Turkish shelling along the border over the weekend.

Turkey, which has moved troops to the Iraq border, warned Iraq and Western allies on Tuesday that a Turkish incursion is imminent unless the US-backed government in Baghdad takes action, and said there would be no ceasefire with the separatist fighters.

Turkish leaders face growing demands at home to stage the offensive in northern Iraq, where the rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party—the PKK—rest, train and get supplies in relative safety.

During the funerals on Tuesday

before returning to Turkey to conduct attacks.

Iraq proposed to send a high-level delegation to Turkey in a few days to discuss the problem.

Foreign Minister Ali Babacan, returning late Tuesday from Baghdad, said, "We said that we are expecting them to come with concrete proposals and otherwise the visit will have no meaning."

The United States issued its most direct demand yet for anti-rebel measures from Iraqi Kurds who hold effective autonomy over territory where Turkish Kurdish guerrillas have camps.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki ordered the closure of all offices belonging to the PKK in Iraq and said they would not be allowed to operate in Iraqi territory.

"We need more than words," Babacan said. "We said that preventing the PKK from using the Iraqi soil, an end to logistical support and all PKK activities inside Iraq and closing of its camps are needed. We also said its leaders need to be arrested and extradited to Turkey."

Roj TV, a pro-Kurdish station that is based in Denmark and



TURKISH soldiers take part in a military exercise near the southeast Turkish town of Cizre, some 50 kilometers from Turkey's Habur border gate to Iraq on Oct. 24.

of 12 soldiers slain in the weekend ambush, tens of thousands mourners chanted slogans urging the government to order an incursion.

Adding to the tensions is the alleged capture of eight Turkish soldiers who have been missing since Sunday's ambush.

Several newspapers printed pictures showing eight missing soldiers—allegedly hostages in the hands of separatist rebels.

Roj TV, a pro-Kurdish station that is based in Denmark and

banned in Turkey on grounds that it is a mouthpiece for Kurdish rebels, aired footage of what it said were soldiers in rebel hands.

In the footage, the camera pans across eight men standing in a row in the mountains with a PKK flag as a backdrop.

Turkey seems willing to refrain

from a major cross-border action until at least early next month, when it is scheduled to host foreign ministers for a meeting about Iraq. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has proposed a

meeting among the United States, Iraq and Turkey during the Nov. 2-3 conference in Istanbul.

Almost immediately afterward, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is expected to go to Washington to meet with US President George W. Bush. The Turkish leader is likely to reiterate demands that the US-backed government in Iraq take steps to close off supply lines to the PKK and take other measures to reduce the group's effectiveness, possibly including military action.

AP

## Iraq cracks down on Kurd rebels

BAGHDAD—IRAQ'S PRIME minister ordered a crackdown on Tuesday on Kurdish PKK rebels, saying Iraq will no longer tolerate the "terrorist" group on its soil, amid Turkish threats of a military incursion.

"The PKK is a bad terrorist organization and we have taken a decision to close its offices and not allow them to work on Iraqi soil," Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said after he met visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan.

"We are putting all our efforts to eliminate their terrorist activities that threaten Iraq and Turkey," said Maliki, who has been under pressure from Ankara and Washington to act against the Iraq-based rebels attacking Turkey.

Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari, who is a Kurd, said earlier that Iraq had begun undertaking a series of measures to thwart the rebels, "including restricting their movements, (their) funding and closing of their offices."

AFP

## More than half a million ordered to evacuate in California



EVACUATED residents from nearby areas watch backfires burn a hillside across from the evacuation center at Steele Canyon High School in Spring Valley, California on Oct. 23.

LOS ANGELES—MORE THAN half a million people were ordered to evacuate their homes in southern California as wind-driven wildfires raged for a fourth day on Wednesday, razing whole neighborhoods and threatening to overwhelm weary firefighters.

The evacuation was the largest in the state's history and the fires the worst ever for California, state officials said.

At least one person was killed and 45 injured, including 21 firefighters, in 16 separate fires that have erupted since Sunday and spread quickly across the region fanned by powerful seasonal winds from the desert. Blazes have so far destroyed

nearly 1,300 buildings and scorched at least 166,000 hectares of tinder-dry forest and brush, officials said.

"Our ability to fight these fires outstrips our resources," said firefighter Robin Wills, who battled a blaze in northern San Diego County. "There are only so many engines, so many firefighters to put out there." The evacuations affected people in areas from the Mexican border to north of Los Angeles.

"These fires are causing terrible and tragic devastation in state but we are responding and we will not stop until everyone is safe," California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said on Tuesday after touring scenes of de-

struction at the mountain resort town of Lake Arrowhead, 150 kilometers east of Los Angeles.

"We have had an unfortunate situation that we've had three things come together: very dry areas, very hot weather and then a lot of wind," Schwarzenegger said. "And so this makes the perfect storm for a fire."

Many parts of California have experienced record low rainfall and record high temperatures this year, leaving vast swaths of rugged countryside bordering built-up residential areas at the mercy of fires.

Weather forecasters say they expect the wind to slightly diminish on Wednesday but to re-

main dangerous. High temperatures and low humidity are expected to remain until Thursday, they said.

The White House announced that President George W. Bush would travel to California on Thursday. Bush declared an emergency in the region early Tuesday and ordered the heads of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema) to California to help coordinate the federal relief effort.

"We send our prayers and thoughts with those who've been affected and we send the help of the federal government as well," Bush said during a speech Tuesday.

AFP

## Action pressed vs Burma

LONDON—SIX FEMALE NOBEL Peace laureates called on the world to keep up pressure on Burma's (Myanmar's) military junta to restore liberty and democracy in the country.

The seventh living female Peace Prize winner—Aung San Suu Kyi—is in detention in Burma, where she has spent nearly 12 of the last 18 years in prison or under house arrest.

The call comes weeks after the junta's bloody suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations led by Buddhist monks.

"Since Burmese monks courageously took to the streets in September to call for democracy, the Burmese regime has enforced a vicious crackdown on peaceful demonstrators and democratic opposition leaders," the six wrote in a letter in Wednesday's edition of the *Guardian* newspaper, using the country's former name.

"The Burmese regime must not be allowed to continue in its perpetration of gross violations of human rights. The detention of Aung San Suu Kyi is the most visible manifestation of the regime's brutality but it is only the tip of the iceberg."

The letter was signed by Jody Williams, Shirin Ebadi, Wangari Maathai, Rigoberta Menchu Tum, Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan Maguire. It said it was supported by former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Reuters

## Ex-Korean president blamed for kidnapping

SEOUL—SOUTH KOREA'S SPY AGENCY said on Wednesday that then-president Park Chung-Hee had approved the infamous 1973 kidnapping in Tokyo of dissident Kim Dae-Jung, who later ruled the country and won the Nobel Peace Prize.

The National Intelligence Service (NIS) also said a 1987 mid-air airplane explosion was committed by North Korean agents.

The NIS was announcing the result of a three-year investigation into two of the most notorious incidents in South Korea's turbulent history. The probe was ordered by current President Roh Moo-Hyun and carried out by a civilian-led "truth committee."

Kim Dae-Jung, a Nobel laureate in 2000, was kidnapped by agents of the NIS's predecessor, the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, from a Tokyo hotel in August 1973.

He was taken to a ship and was about to be thrown overboard before his life was

dramatically spared with the intervention of US government authorities.

The dissident was brought back to Seoul and put under years of house arrest.

It has long been a mystery who was behind the abduction, with fingers of blame pointed at either Lee Hu-Rak, Korean CIA head at the time, or President Park himself.

"Alongside the possibility that ex-President Park might have ordered it in person, he must have given at least a tacit approval," the NIS said in a six-volume, 3,300-page report into these and other historical incidents.

The report marked Seoul's first official admission that a state agency was to blame for the kidnapping. South Korean ambassador Yu Myung-Hwan visited the Japanese foreign ministry on Wednesday morning to explain the findings to Senior Vice Foreign Minister Hitoshi Kumura.

AFP

## Indonesia bird flu deaths hit 89

JAKARTA—A 5-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN Indonesia has died of bird flu, raising the toll in the nation worst affected by avian flu to 89, the health ministry said on Wednesday.

The girl is the second child to die of the H5N1 virus in Indonesia this month from Tanggerang, a satellite town just west of Jakarta. A 12-year-old boy from there died on Oct. 13.

"Tests have confirmed that (the girl) was positively infected with the H5N1 virus," said a staff member of the health ministry's bird flu information center who identified himself as Momo.

The latest victim, Dewi Apriliani, had been admitted to a hospital in the capital on Monday. She died a few hours later, he said.

"She had a history of contact with infected poultry. She had contact with four dead chickens in her neighborhood, according to her family," Momo added.

The girl is the 110th human case of bird flu

in Indonesia, 89 of which have led to death.

The H5N1 virus is endemic in poultry across most of Indonesia's sprawling archipelago.

Bird flu is usually transmitted directly from infected birds—typically poultry—to humans. However, scientists fear that the virus could eventually mutate into a form easily transmissible between people, triggering a global pandemic that could potentially kill millions.

The latest Indonesian death brings the global toll since outbreaks were first reported in humans in Asia in the 1990s to 204.

Besides Indonesia, deaths since have been recorded in Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Iraq, Laos, Nigeria, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam.

Indonesia has been sharply criticized for being slow to act in its fight to control bird flu, which has spread easily in a nation where many people keep chickens and other birds in their backyards and homes.

AFP



Two flamingos roll in their long necks in a similar way as they both stand on one leg to take a nap in the warming autumn sun at the Frankfurt Zoo, Germany, in this file photo.

Keepers at Frankfurt's famed zoo said on Tuesday, Oct. 23, that four of their flamingos were killed by intruders who ripped three of the bird's heads from their bodies. A fourth bird was found strangled to death.

AP

## NEWSBRIEFS

## Space shuttle blasts off

CAPE CANAVERA. Space shuttle Discovery blasted off on Tuesday for a construction mission at the International Space Station, raising hope that NASA will be able to add laboratories for European and Japanese partners later this year. The shuttle bolted from its seaside launch pad on time at 11:38 a.m., defying forecasts of poor weather and a potential delay from an ice buildup on its fuel tank. The seven-member crew, led by retired Air Force Col. Pamela Melroy, 46, plans to spend 10 days at the station preparing it for the arrival of Europe's Columbus laboratory in early December.

Reuters

## Somalia frees UN official

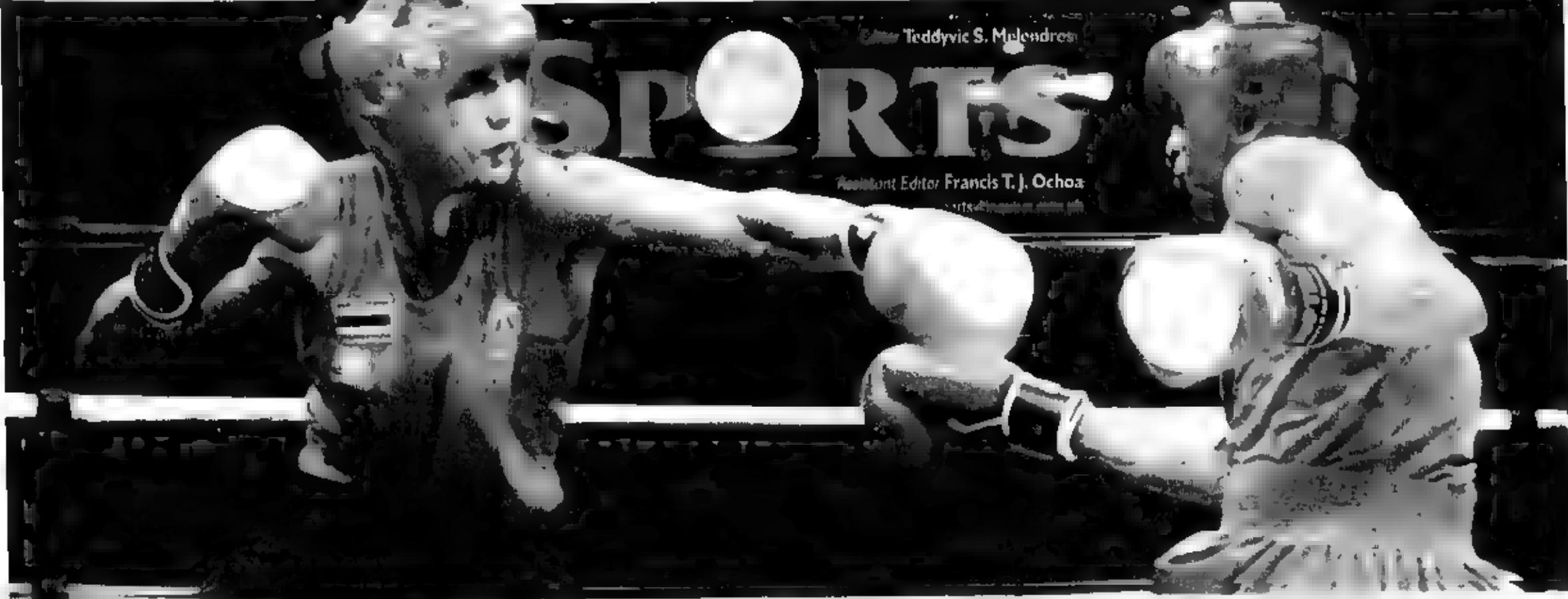
MOGADISHU—The Somali government freed a senior UN food aid official on Tuesday, nearly a week after dozens of intelligence officers stormed the World Food Programme's compound in Mogadishu and seized him. "We welcome the release of Idris Osman, and are pleased that he will be reunited with his family," UN World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director Josette Sheeran said in a statement from the organization's headquarters in Rome. Osman is the local head of the WFP in Somalia.

Reuters

## 6 militants nabbed

MADRID—Spanish police have arrested six people linked to an Islamist militant cell that recruited guerrillas through the Internet to fight in Iraq, the Interior Ministry said on Wednesday. Police are searching six homes and a butcher's shop operated by members of the cell and have taken away documents and computers for examination. The Ministry said in a statement.

Reuters



UNABLE to find his range, Joan Tipon (right) sidesteps to avoid a punch by Thai Worapoj Patchoom, who summoned all his guile in carving out a 13-5 win and avenging a loss to Tipon in the Asian Games.

AP

# Foxy Thai mauls off-form Tipon

By Dennis U. Eroa  
*Inquirer/Libre*

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—JOAN TIPON'S Olympic dream will have to wait for now.

The reigning Asian Games bantamweight champion started cold and lost to arch-rival Worapoj Patchoom of Thailand, 13-5, at the start of the International Amateur Boxing Association World Boxing Championships here Tuesday.

The foxy Thai, who lost to the Filipino in the 2006 Doha Asian finals, was in complete command after taking a 3-0 lead at the end of a boring, action-less

first round as Tipon boxed without his usual flair and confidence.

A handful of Filipino supporters including Philippine Sports Commission chief Wilibam Ramirez and 1970 Asian Games gold medalist Ricardo Fortaleza at the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavilion tried to rouse Tipon with lusty cheering to no avail.

In a later match, light-welterweight Delfin Boholst bowed to China's Mai Sun Qiong, 38-15, capping the Filipinos' forgettable opening day campaign.

"Well, that's boxing," said Ramirez. "It's not the end of the world for him and the rest of the national boxing team."

The national boxers are shooting for tickets to Beijing 2008 in this Olympic qualifying tournament.

Tipon, who lost in the preliminaries of the national open back home, will shoot anew for an Olympic slot next year in Asian qualifiers.

Fortaleza said that Tipon failed to sustain his attack in the later rounds.

"The Thai likes to clinch and Joan wasn't really able to press the action," said Fortaleza, who also hit the "biased" scoring of the judges.

"Terrible. The Thai didn't even throw a punch, yet he was getting the scores," said Fortaleza.

The Thai, scoring mostly to the body, opened a 9-5 lead at the end of the third round then wisely danced and stayed away from trouble by clinching.

National head coach Pat Gaspi acknowledged the loss.

"That's not the true Tipon," said Gaspi. "Now we have to concentrate on our remaining boxers."

It was an observation echoed by deputy coach Ronald Chavez.

"Joan never had the opportunity to find his range. The body blows hurt although some looked dubious."

After the draw held earlier at the Palmer House Hilton, event organizers

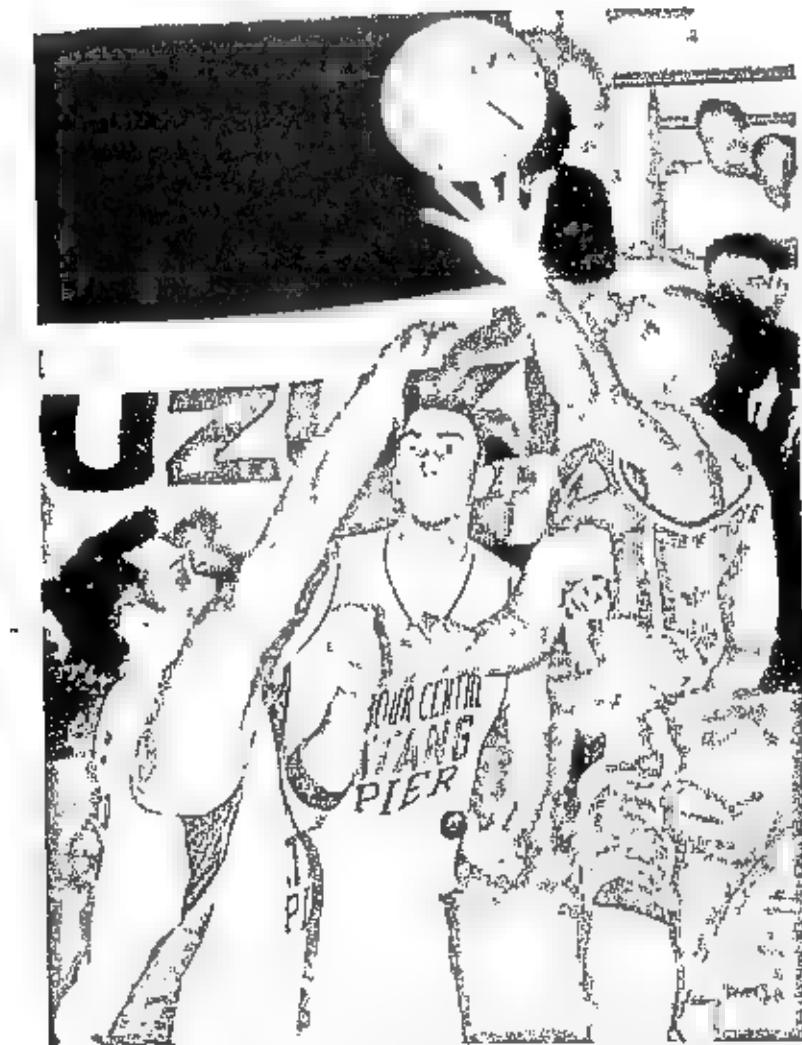
shuffled the schedule. Tipon wasn't scheduled to box Tuesday and learned of the new schedule only after the draw.

Next up for the RP-PLDT-Smart boxing team is featherweight Charly Suarez, who will be tested by Mongolian veteran Zongbaatar Enkhzorig Wednesday.

Suarez is a rookie in the World Championships like Tipon, Delfin Boholst, lightweight Genebert Basadre and welterweight Willie Lopez.

Flyweight Vitoito Pala fights Andrew Seiby of Wales on Oct. 25, the same day that Basadre battles Bulgarian favorite Kolev Ognyan and Lopez debuts versus Veibor Vedic.

## RP five battles Mail and More



JASON Castro (right) and the rest of the Southeast Asian Games-bound cagers hope to put together a better performance this time around after losing their opening game against Harbour Centre. RYAN LIM

**GAMES TODAY: The Arena**  
2 p.m.: Mail and More vs RP Team  
4 p.m.: Pharex vs Toyota Balintawak

### REDEMPTION FOR THE RP TEAM AND THE top spot for Toyota Balintawak

Humbled in its debut in the 2008 PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink, the national quintet honing its skills for the coming Southeast Asian Games in Thailand tries to avoid further loss of face when it plays Mail and More at 2 p.m. today at The Arena in San Juan.

"They can't take PBL teams lightly," said national coach Bacul of his charges, who absorbed an 83-74 loss from defending champion Harbour Centre last Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the Toyota squad guns for a second straight win and the solo lead over newcomer Pharex in the 4 p.m. main game.

The Road Kings are slightly favored due to their sensational 81-77 win over Bacchus Energy Drink where they overhauled a 21-point deficit.

"TV (Casio) and Cholo (Villanueva) gave us a big lift despite practicing only for four days for the team," said Toyota Balintawak coach Anei Vanguardia. "We have to play smart and use our experience to win again."

The Pharex Medics are out to avenge their 68-65 defeat to San Mig Coffee in the opener last week.

Bacul admitted that his boys "played badly," and the loss to Harbour should serve as a wake-up call.

The SEAG-bound squad sorely lacked power in the backcourt, especially after Harbour's new acquisition TY Tang outplayed RP counterpart Boyet Bautista. Marc Anthony Reyes



FERNANDO

## Fernando salvages 71, falls behind by 5

SINGAPORE—ANTHONY FERNANDO rallied with back-to-back birdies from No. 15 to match par 71, but still trailed by five strokes halfway through the Singapore Open Amateur Championship at the par 71 Singapore Island Country Club's Bukit Course here yesterday.

FERNANDO/A24



Grand Draw is on October 30, 2007

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Vanessa Edubas Cagayan De Oro City	Rebecca Maningro Cagayan De Oro City	Jamail Rahaman Maguindanao	Nafosah Balf Marawi City

To the winners please wait for the notification letter from Cebuana Lhuillier which will tell you how to claim your prizes

CEBUANA LHUILLIER HOTLINE: 723-3826/739-6201



Per DTI-DOJ Permit No. 1044 Series of 2007

## 'Z' camp denies Darchinyan bout

By Musong R. Castillo

Z "THE DREAM" GORRES WILL NOT fight Vic Darchinyan in an elimination bout for the No. 1 ranking of the International Boxing Federation on Dec. 1, contrary to what popular boxing website sportsnut.com reported yesterday.

While it is true that the IBF had ordered a Gorres-Darchinyan elimination and that they are willing to face the Armenian-born fighter, Gorres' handler Tony Aldeguer yes-

terday said that they have not signed any fight contract.

The winner of the eliminator will be lined up for a possible title shot opposite Russian super-fly champ Dimitri Kirilov.

Ironically, it would have been the second title eliminator for Gorres. His last fight against Eric Ortiz of Mexico last Aug. 11 in Sacramento was also an IBF eliminator. Gorres scored an eighth round TKO over Ortiz.

The 27 2-1 Gorres lost a contro-

versial 12th round split decision to Mexico's Fernando Montiel, the WBO super-fly champ, last February in Cebu and would like to get back on track to having another title shot.

"Not true," Aldeguer replied via text when asked of the fight, which Darchinyan's agent Angelo Hyder confirmed to sportsnut.com. "We have not received any offer of the purse or the date of the fight."

"Dec. 1 is out of the question because we have a big promotion on Dec. 2," he added.

**A Time For Heroes**

# UAAP bets pace Unigames

By Cedell P. Tupas, Inquirer Visayas

**BACOLOD CITY**—FRESHMAN Luville Dato-on of University of Santo Tomas Tomas has a penchant for churning out golden performances in national meets.

It was no different yesterday when the three-time Palarong Pambansa long jump champion added a University Games gold medal to her collection.

The 17-year-old Dato-on, who reigned in the high school division of the Palaro from 2005-2007, leapt to a personal-best of 5.45 meters to

rule the women's long jump.

"I'm surprised with this victory because I expected the level of competition here to be higher compared to the Palaro," the San Enrique, Iloilo native told the Inquirer. "Good thing I executed my jump very well."

The silver medal went to Merily Teodisio (5.23m) of Rizal Technological University, while Mariz Constanter of FEU dropped to fourth, after a dismal 4.80 leap, half a meter shorter than her gold-medal winning effort last year.

Dato-on's triumph and Jhomy

Espana's record-breaking feat in the men's 5,000 meters made the Tigers the early pacemakers with two golds, two silvers and a bronze in the athletics competition at the University of St. La Salle oval.

Espana, silver medalist in the same event last year, timed 16 minutes, 11.95 seconds to shave 21 seconds from the 10-year-old mark record held by national team member Julius Sermona.

Making it a 1-2 finish for UST was Raquin Trinio, who also surpassed Sermona's clocking by checking in at 16:13.54.

# Inton snares 7 swim golds

ANGELICA INTON of Minam College bagged seven gold medals in the Athletic Association of Private Schools (AAPS) swimming competition held last Oct. 20 at the Amoranto Sports Complex in Quezon City.

The sophomore student powered Miriam to the overall title in the High School girl division.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor



INTON

DATO-ON: Personal best ANDY ALVAREZ/PI/VISSAYAS



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
National Capital Region  
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino  
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

## NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position	Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position	Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
EZENGLISH CORP. 301 Alabang Business Tower 1216 Acacia Ave., Muntinlupa City	Moon Soo Choun Korean	General Manager	CARL JASON GEN. NOSE CO. LTD. Unit 8C Dynasty Tower A, J. Abad Santos Ave., Makati City	Jiquan Ling Chinese	General Manager	OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hendri Indonesian	Customer Service Representative
EDUCATION E-LAMP, INC. 2904-C West Philippine Stock Exchange Ctr., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Hyewon Cho (wife of Kim) Korean	Customer Service Manager	PRIME DOTS TRADING CO. LTD. Rm. 402, 27 San Nicolas St., Tondo, Manila	Zhenhui Shi Chinese	General Manager	OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Andy Kwandinalia Indonesian	Customer Service Representative
YOW SEN MARINE EXPORT 5 McDonough Rd., Quirino Ave., Tambu, Paranaque City	Ming-Cheng Chen Chinese	Consultant	GREAT & WONDERFUL MRKTG. LTD. CO. Rm 909 Crystal Mansion, Makati City	Wendian Lin Chinese	General Manager	OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hendra Jamin Indonesian	Customer Service Representative
DOMINOES INDUSTRY CO. LTD 1106 Dadivas St. cor Alvarado St., Binondo, Manila	Yuanyong Hou Chinese	Sales Representative	KOREPHIL AMUSEMENT & GAMING CORP. 1971 L. Guinto St., Malate, Manila	Cheng Je Sung Chinese	General Manager	OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kuang Siong Ng Indonesian	Customer Service Representative
MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES ENGINE SYSTEM PHILIPPINES, INC. Warehouse 4C Sunblest Compound, Km. 23 West Service Road, Bd. Cupang, Muntinlupa City	Hideki Inubashiri Japanese	President	8999-B Aranya St., San Antonio Village, Makati City	Holu Hiro Indonesian	Senior Field Supervisor	OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Muliano Indonesian	Customer Service Representative
DOMINOES INDUSTRY CO. LTD. 1106 Dadivas St. cor Alvarado St., Binondo, Manila	Gongzhi Cai Chinese	Sales Representative	CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Eugene Yap Singaporean	Marketing Officer	OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Polim Indonesian	Customer Service Representative
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HOLCIM PHILIPPINES, INC. L3 Pinima Plaza, 39 Plaza Drive Rockwell Center, Makati City	Daniel Nikolaus Bach Swiss	Senior Vice President-Manufacturing	CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Soa Ceng Indonesian	Operation Analyst	OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Geng Kuan Teoh Malaysian	Customer Service Representative
STAMINAIR CORPORATION 9/F Unit 904, 98 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Damien Jordane Ferlicoq French	Technical Marketing Developer	CASPO INCORPORATED 20/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Seng Tan Malaysian	Accounts Officer	OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Susanto Indonesian	Customer Service Representative
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RED ROOTS MARKTG. CO. LTD. Unit 706, 877 Alvarado St., Binondo, Manila	Mingqu Wang Chinese	General Manager	OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hendrik Indonesian	Customer Service Representative			

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

*Raymundo G. Aggravante*  
RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE  
OIC Regional Director

# Laguna paces Bicol-SL games

By June Navarro

NAGA CITY—MARK JAKE Reyes thought it was a mediocre run but he still ended up with the gold medal.

Although he failed to improve his personal best in the 5,000 meters, the 17-year-old from San Pablo City easily won to ignite Laguna's five-gold spree in athletics at the start of the Bicol-Southern Luzon qualifying leg of the Philip pine Olympic Festival yesterday.

Reyes won in 17 minutes and 12.48 seconds, beating Cavite's tandem of Darwin Lum and Miltbert Caranto, who clocked 17:15.72 and 17:29.52, respectively, at the Metro Naga Sports Complex here.

"I failed to beat my record. But

I'm glad that I won," said Reyes, who has a personal best of 16:25 seconds in the event. The University of the East education freshman will compete in the 3,000 steeplechase and 10,000m today and the 1,500m on Friday.

Laguna also picked up golds in the boys' 100m dash and shotput, girls' 100m hurdles and discus throw.

John Emil Robles timed 11.5 seconds in the boys' 100m, nipping Cavite's Michael Angelo Baay (11.6) and Cresal Sajarella (11.8).

Julius Sequena heaved the iron sphere to a distance of 13.10 meters to beat another Cavite duo in the boys' shotput.

In the 100m hurdles for girls, Ariane Sumague beat team mate Eunice Baatbat and Camarines

Sur's Janeth Romangosa, clinching the gold in 17.2 seconds. Balabat timed 17.6 seconds while Romangosa had 18.1 seconds.

Ira Hernandez completed Laguna's medal haul by topping the discus throw in 29.10 meters, beating Cavite's Kristine Ranario (25.99) and Naga City's Aimee Masalunga (24.27).

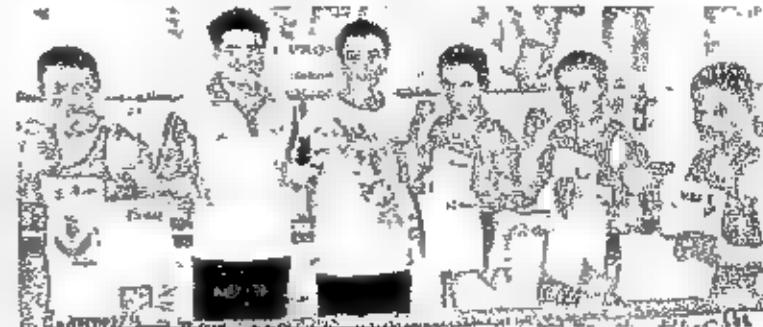
Cavite also had a promising start, bagging four of the 10 golds at stake in athletics courtesy of Jill Boragay (girls' 3,000m), Mark David Madera (boys' 110m), Wilma Delare (girls' 100m) and Jeromy Noarin (boys' 800m).

The 16-year-old Boragay, a farmer's daughter, outpaced provincemate Janice Marquez and Camarines Sur's Marilou Javier in 11:24.77.

"I'm happy my friend (Marquez) and I finished on top," said Boragay, who hails from Biong Cabusao, Camarines Sur but represented Sisters of Mary School

based in Silang, Cavite.

Noralyn Picaso captured the first gold for Camarines Sur by clocking 2:25.9 in the girls' 800m run.



KICKBOXERS: SKP President and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambo" N. Tolentino (3rd from left) with kickboxers Vicente Valdueza, muay thai president Robert Valdez, Armando Daligdig, Tyrone Natico and coach Emilio Z. Dacuyan Jr. The kickboxers are bound for the 2nd Asian Indoor Games slated in Macau Oct. 26-Nov. 3.

## NBC-Spring rips Indons

PENANG, MALAYSIA—NBC-SPRING Cooking Oil bounced back from an opening-day loss to Thailand by besting Indonesia Basketball League champion Satria Muda-Britama, 81-62, Monday in the 2007 Penang Chief Minister Cup-Asian invitational tournament at the Han Chuang indoor stadium here.

Ex-pros Nelson Asaytano, EJ Feihl and Dondon Vilariño waxed hot from the start to power the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tat" Padilla and Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino to the lopsided triumph.

Outfitted by Champion Sportswear, NBC-Spring squandered a 37-29 lead at the turn and fell to Thailand's national team, 73-62, in one of the opening matches.

The Philippines battles Iran next in the tough tourney. The Iranians routed Thailand, 100-74 also Monday.

In other games, China's Tianjian bested Singapore, 62-51; Malaysia routed India, 108-65, and Iran's national youth team blasted the Indians, 88-54.

The scores:

NBC-Spring (61)—Asaytano 20, Vilariño 17, Feihl 12, Capobres 10, Marquez 7, Epondulan 6, Reyes 5, De Castro 3, Kalaw 1.

SM-Britama (62)—Kumiawan 18, Sunarko 12, Silepu 9, Wilaya 7, Gozali 6, Pratomo 4, Damai 2.

Quarters: 27-22, 49-34, 67-51, 81-62.

## Rotary golfest goes to Macau

THE ROTARY GOLF FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION of the Philippines (RGFFP) tournament will go to Macau and Zhuhai for the 12th Asian leg on Nov. 20-24.

Participants will stay at the Venetian Hotel and for three nights at the seaside Harborview Hotel in Zhuhai.

Golf venues will be the Agile Golf and Country Club and the Lakewood Golf Club. Deadline for payment and registration is Nov. 9.

For bookings, contact Maripaz Len at 5221495 or Palma Sevilla (0920-9199000), 7248174/7212667 local 110.

Defending champions are Jun Tan, 68 points, overall, RC-Makati Southwest's Honor Mendoza, 62, Class A, Ben Gaita, 76, and RC Cagayan de Oro's Rey Paduganan, 67, Class B; RC Novaholics' Roberto Pineda, 80, overall champion, Class C.



**YAKULT 10 MILER.** Michael D.S. Ong, Yakult Phils. director and manager for sales and planning, race organizer Rudy Biscocho and Yakult executive vice president Akira Onose (from left) sign the memorandum of agreement paving the way for the 18th staging of the Yakult 10 Miler on Dec. 9 at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Breeder of the Year up

PACESETTERS M. MIITCHON AND JOEY Abaqua of Rizal shoot for the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year title today as the LGBA Stag Series championship unfolds at the Araneta Coliseum with 90 fights. Out of 421 entries who joined the series, the JA Sudden Strike M. of Itchon and Abaqua banners the field with 14 wins out of 16 fights so far. Mayor Cito Alberto of Catanduanes once the arch rival of sabong idol Patrick Antonio, has 12 points, the same scores of Boy Tuazon and Jogen Letada. The entries of Raffy Campos and Edwin Aranet posted 11 points.

## Basketball awards up

THE UAAP and NCAA Press Corps will fete the top achievers of the two leagues when the 2007 Collegiate Basketball Awards presented by Anta unfolds tonight at the Coral A Ballroom of the Manila Pavilion.

Coaches of the Year Franz Pamaren of La Salle and Louie Ales of Letran and Most Valuable Players Jerry Cruz of Santo Tomas and Kelvin de la Pena of Mapua lead the the major awardees in the annual rites supported by the Philippine Sportswriters Association, San Miguel Corp., the Philippine Sports Commission, Harbour Centre and Hapee Toothpaste.

San Beda's Ogie Menor and La Salle's JV Casio were the recipients of the San Miguel Scoring Champion plums.

**Government Warning:**  
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

## SPORTS

## Red Sox, Rockies get World Series going

BOSTON—JEFF FRANCIS LOOKED AT Fenway Park and sounded like the wide-eyed World Series rookie he is.

"I'm sure the Red Sox are used to this every day," he said Tuesday, with more than a bit of awe, "but we've never seen anything like this, the bus pulling up into the parking lot, and the trailers and the satellite dishes."

Welcome to the show, Colorado Rockies, a black-and-purple clad club of Tulowitzkis and Torrealbas unknown to many fans even now, after their amazing run of 21 wins in 22 games.

Josh Beckett was set to start Wednesday night's opener for Boston, and Francis was slated to pitch for the Rockies. Much has been made of possible snow when the Series moves to Coors Field this weekend, but there was a 30 percent chance of rain for Game 1.

With Colorado coming off a record eight-

day layoff since sweeping Arizona in the NL championship series, there's been a lot of debate about rust vs. rest—and what better place to discuss rust than quirky old Fenway Park, which opened in 1912 and is filled with nearly a century of baseball sounds and smells.

"We will not apologize for winning quickly," Rockies manager Clint Hurdle said to a roomful of laughter.

## The new Yankees

In some ways, the Red Sox have become the Yankees, an October fixture attracting national attention. Manny and his do-rag, Big Papi and Dice-K are TV staples.

The Rockies? They haven't been on a FOX Saturday broadcast since July 2004 and haven't appeared on an ESPN Sunday night telecast since June 2002.

"We've been called favorites since Day 1, and look at us," David Ortiz said. "Here we are dancing and just taking it easy."

Boston overcame a 3-1 deficit in the AL championship series to beat Cleveland. That was nothing compared to what the Red Sox did in 2004, when they became the first baseball team to bounce back from a 3-0 deficit in a best-of-seven postseason series, upending the Yankees. Then they swept the Cardinals for their first World Series title in 86 years.

This season, Boston took over the AL East lead for good on April 18 and ended New York's run of nine straight division titles. The Rockies were fourth in the NL West at just 76-72 when their spurt began Sept. 18. If not for two blown saves by San Diego's Trevor Hoffman, they wouldn't even have even won the wild card and made their first postseason appearance since 1995.

**SWISS ACE:** Switzerland's Roger Federer gets back on the winning track, beating Germany's Michael Berrer, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3. Federer was coming off a defeat to David Nalbandian in the recent Madrid Masters.

AP

## Fernando . . .

From page A21

That was four shots up on New Zealand's Nick Gillepie, who had a 71 for a 140 while Fernando shared third place with compatriot Rufino Bayron, who fired a 70, and Taiwanese Chuang Chen-Chih, who matched par 71.

Jhonnel Abeba, who also carded a 70 on the first day, fumbled with a one-over 72 and dropped to 142 in a tie with Thai ace and Nomura Cup third placer Ki-

radech Aphibarnrat, who matched par for the second straight day.

Ferdie Aunzo actually turned in the day's best score for the Filipino bets with a 69 after an opening 74. Michael Bibat, winner of the event in 2004, settled for a 71 and a 144 total like ICTSI teammate Miko Alejandro (72), Mark Fernando (71), and Singapore's Jonathan Woo (73).

## Big J coming home soon

## IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

MANNY VICTORINO's colleague Abe King does not believe there was anything sinister behind the bullets found in the cage's possession at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"Manny must have left the bullets in the bag after shooting practice," said the Washington-based Abe, who came to Manila recently to invite Manny and other PBA cage legends to play a series of exhibition games in the United States in March next year to raise funds for PBA Legends USA Foundation, of which he is the chair.

Manny was on the way to Guam when he was held at the airport.

He was later released after posting bail.

\*\*\*

Speaking of Guam, this is a place where visiting Filipinos usually get into trouble at the airport.

A fellow sports scribe was almost nabbed by Guam immigration when a sniffer dog detected an illegal substance in his hand-carried bag.

Immediately our colleague was asked to empty the contents of the bag. Nothing looked suspicious except for a sealed Manila envelop.

Our colleague told airport police that only his dentures were inside, as he gave them a wide, toothless grin to prove it.

The authorities later apologized. Our colleague learned his lesson. From thereon, he wore his dentures every time he traveled, cleaning them first very well before he did.

\*\*\*

Horse owner Reli de Leon has good news for those who have been awaiting the return of Sonny Jaworski to the Philippines.

After a four-month stay in the United States where Reli said Sonny owns two houses, the Big J is coming home on Nov. 4.

"Sonny is now in the call center business, which is the reason for his protracted stay in the US. When he returns to Manila, he will look at the offers that came his way while he was gone," said Reli, who bumped into Sonny in Las Vegas during the Pacquiao-Barrera fight.

Sonny was driving a brand new black Hummer. He's still very popular wherever he goes, basta may mga Filipino."

\*\*\*

BAP-SBP vice chair Ricky Vargas, team sponsor Jean Henri Lhuillier, and close relatives were at the penthouse of the Discovery Suites last Sunday night to welcome the RP ladies cage squad, the Seabia silver medalist, from Phuket, Thailand.

Discovery Suites owner Cynthia Thiu, who has been supporting the team, had planned a surprise party for the ladies that night. From the airport, they boarded a Victory Liner tourist bus provided by staunch supporter Marivic del Pilar, and went to the party place at the Ortigas Center.

Even if they failed to bring home the gold, Ricky V, who represented SBP president Manny V. Pangilinan, lauded the girls for performing way beyond expectations, and gifted each member of the 25-man delegation with a brand new cellphone and a P5,000 load. I learned that PLDT had also given the team some spending money for the week-long event.

For his part, Cebuana's Jean Henri announced that he would be giving the team the P600,000 bonus incentive for a gold medal, instead of the P400,000 for a silver medal.

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Institute of Internal  
Auditors Philippines

# INSTITUTE OF INTERNAL AUDITORS PHILIPPINES

## 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

### ADVOCACY: THE PASSION OF OUR PROFESSION

October 25 – 27, 2007  
Pryce Plaza Hotel, Cagayan De Oro City

#### MESSAGES

Warmest greetings to the Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines (IIAP) as you hold your 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

Your theme, "Advocacy: the Passion of Our Profession," shows your commitment to constantly improve the skills and technical know-how of your members to keep them abreast of global trends. This also emphasizes your advocacy to promote transparency and prudence in corporate and government spending.

Indeed, the Philippines is now experiencing a strong economic turnaround because of your contribution in curbing corruption and in checking wasteful and unnecessary spending. As active partners of government, I ask all of you to join me in our efforts to move our country forward toward greater political stability and economic prosperity.

Mabuhay

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO  
President, Republic of the Philippines



This year's Convention Theme, Advocacy: The Passion of Our Profession, is most fitting to the Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines' continuing mission to champion governance and quality in practicing our profession. As I have emphasized in my message during my induction in the presidency, of this prestigious organization, we have indeed taken on a commitment. Together, we serve.

Our role as internal auditors continues to evolve as the business landscape moves toward a dynamic business environment characterized by globalization and borderless economies. Our advocacy has always been to equip our internal auditors with the skills and attributes that are responsive to the changing expectations of our stakeholders in this new economic and business environment.

The theme for this year's Convention mirrors the continuing efforts of your Institute to ensure that the internal auditing profession is regarded as an important enabler of good governance and partner for success of every organization.

What is also most auspicious is that this year marks the Diamond Year for this annual event! I believe that this is the culmination of every President's leadership and living testimony of his legacies. I am proud to be among the leaders of this organization characterized by its members' deep sense of commitment and our passion in promoting the highest professional standards of the internal auditing profession. I also believe that this passion will never fade – it will forever glow in the heart of every internal auditor.

To the men and women of the Institute, my best personal wishes and heartfelt of congratulations on this 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention. The journey that started 60 years ago has not stopped. We continue to surge onwards, collectively buoyed by our integrity and service to the profession.

LEONARDO J. MATIGNAS, JR.  
IIAP President



On behalf of the Board of the Directors and the Convention Committee, it gives us pleasure to welcome the sponsors, delegates, speakers and guests to the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines in this adventure city of the south - Cagayan de Oro.



This most anticipated yearly gathering has been a venue in sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, benchmarking and renewing and making new friends in the profession. For this year, the convention committee has organized a meaningful and stimulating program with distinguished keynote speakers, relevant topic presentations from acclaimed local and foreign speakers who are experts in their fields to be concluded by an adventure tour of the island...

The theme "Advocacy, the Passion of our Profession" encompasses the myriad ways your Institute can serve you and your stakeholders by helping you improve your craft so that in turn, you can make a difference in your own organizations.

As director-in-charge, I would like to wish everyone a rewarding and pleasant stay in Cagayan de Oro City.

AMADOR A. RACPAN  
2007 Convention BOD-in-charge

• • • •

Welcome to the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Institute of Internal Auditors Philippines. The IIAP has indeed come a long way! And what a better way to celebrate it than in the City of Golden Friendship, Cagayan de Oro City!



This convention highlights the theme "Advocacy: the Passion of our Profession." Indeed, our ability to focus our thoughts and attention to our goals will keep us armed in facing the challenges and changes affecting our profession. Our passion to continuously deliver objective and innovative solutions to our respective organizations and clients will broaden our image as a powerful force of positive change and improvement in our society.

This year's annual convention aims to impart insights, practical approaches and practices on enhancing further the effectiveness and strengthen the capabilities of our professionals. In addition, there will be fellowship activities to build and increase your network of associates and friends and the launching of the 60<sup>th</sup> IIAP anniversary to commemorate this significant milestone.

On behalf of the 2007 IIAP Convention Committee, I wish you an enjoyable, productive and memorable Annual Convention.

WARLITO S. DONAIRE, CPA, CIA  
2007 Convention Chairman

• • • •

[www.iiap.org](http://www.iiap.org)



PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES	
<b>Day 1</b>	
12:00 – 2:30	October 25 (THURSDAY)
2:30 – 3:30	Registration & Luncheon
	Opening Remarks
	Mr. Leonardo J. Matignas Jr. – IIAP President
	SyCip, Gorres & Velho (SGV & Co.)
	Welcome Remarks
	Hon. Constantino Jaranga
	Mayor, Cagayan De Oro City
	Hon. Oscar Moreno
	Governor, Misamis Oriental
3:45 – 4:45	Whistle Blowing in the Philippines: Awareness, Attitudes and Structures
	Ms. Heidi Mendoza
	Philippine Development Forum, Governance and Anticorruption Working Group Secretariat
	Internal Audit and Audit Committee in Government
4:45 – 5:45	Mr. Bob McDonald
	Director – Risk Management, Queensland Department of Main Roads
	Keep Watch Anti-Money Laundering
5:45 – 6:45	Mr. John McFarland
	Country Manager, Hill & Associates, Singapore
	FREE TIME
6:45 – 7:00	Dinner & Socials, Gala Night, Cultural Show & Awarding of Certificates
7:00 – 11:00	October 26, 2007 (FRIDAY)
8:00 – 9:00	Public Speaking the Easy Way
	Mrs. Lourdes Feliz
9:00 – 10:00	Charter President, Fort Bonifacio Toastmaster Club
	The Role of Internal Auditor in a New Risk Environment
10:15 – 11:15	Mr. Reynaldo De Dios
	President, Reynaldo De Dios & Co.
	Managing IT Audit Function for Competitive Advantage
11:15 – 2:00	Mr. Frank Yam
2:00 – 3:00	Chief Executive, Focus Strategic Group
	GROUP PICTURE & LUNCHEON
3:00 – 4:00	Corporate Ethics and Accountability
	Atty. Rene G. Baez
	SVP & Corporate Governance Advisor, PLDT
	Internal Audit Trends
4:15 – 5:15	Mr. Mike Eraso
	TeamMate Asia Pacific Leader
	PricewaterhouseCoopers, Hong Kong
	Me, Inc: Unleashing the Power of the New Professionals
5:15 – 7:00	Ms. Cecille V. Huitem
	SVP Human Resource Management, Groupon
7:00 – 11:00	Launching of the 60 <sup>th</sup> IIAP Anniversary
	Dinner & Socials
<b>Day 2</b>	
<b>Day 3</b>	
October 27 (SATURDAY)	
White Water Rafting or Bukidnon Countryside Tour	

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	Melanie B. Buenafe
	IIAP Secretariat

# Yap bats for more investments in agriculture sector

By Amy R. Remo

MORE INVESTMENTS in the local agriculture sector are needed if the country wants to achieve the target of halving the number of "extremely poor" by 2015, according to Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

He noted that the World Bank report released last week had underscored this need and stressed that more funds in the farm sector could substantially reduce the number of poor, or those living on \$1 a day.

In the Philippines, however, the agriculture sector receives only a paltry share of the total investments.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas also reported that in March, only 5.7 percent of all outstanding loans in the country went to agriculture projects despite the Agri-Agra Law, which requires banks to allocate 20 percent of their "loanable" funds for agricultural projects.

At the same time, only 1.33 percent of the total foreign direct investments in 2006 went to agriculture, according to the Board of Investments.

Considering that agriculture accounts for a fifth of the country's gross

domestic product and employs nearly 50 million workers, these figures were measly.

"The biggest challenge for DA is how to accelerate agribusiness growth to sufficiently increase farmers' incomes and provide the countryside," Yap said.



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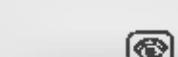
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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2007

## BUSINESS

B1

GMA Network posted  
P1.8-B profit in Jan.-Sept.

By Riza T. Olchondra

GMA NETWORK INC. POSTED A consolidated net income after tax of P1.788 billion in the first nine months of 2007.

This was 17 percent higher than the P1.532 billion registered in the same period last year.

Revenues as of end-September reached P8.8 billion, 7 percent higher than the P8.3 billion last year.

Net income in the third quarter alone reached P662 million, 7 percent more than the P617 million in the same quarter last year. Revenues in the third quarter hit P3.1 billion, slightly up from P3 billion a year ago.

GMA Network chair Felipe Gozon said the company would likely sustain its growth momentum in the fourth quarter and post more than P2 billion in net income for the whole year.

Firm expects to surpass P2-B mark by end of '07

"I'm very satisfied with the sales in October and that could continue in November and December," Gozon said.

The company will continue its expansion projects, with P530 million left to spend out of its P900-million budget for capital expenditure this year. This will be spent for its expansion programs in the regions— including Bicol, the Visayas and Mindanao.

Television airtime sales in the nine-month period grew 6 percent over last year to P8.1 billion. International

operations, including GMA Pinoy TV and syndication, grew 52 percent over the same period last year. As of August, GMA Pinoy TV has an estimated 735,000 viewers worldwide based on 147,000 subscribers.

The network also attributed the bigger profit in the nine-month period to better cost management.

Expenses for the third quarter grew mainly because salaries and benefits were increased by 20 percent. The P80-million one-time payment of bonuses to employees in the third quarter in relation to the firm's collective bargaining agreement contributed to the rise in expenses.

Higher talent fees and costly production of Eleksyon 2007 also pushed expenses up.

These, according to GMA Network, were offset by the lower production cost incurred for QTV 11. This was due to the replacement of in-house programs by rented shows.



## 33RD PBCE OPENING

Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Makoto Katsura, Philippine Business Conference and Exposition chair Francis Chua, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry chair Donald Dee and PCCI president Samie Lim chat after going around the exhibit area of the 33rd PBCE. The three-day annual business meet and the exposition opened yesterday at the Manila Hotel. President Macapagal-Arroyo will be the special guest and keynote speaker on the third day of the conference.



## BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FINALLY, BIG BUSINESS IS SPEAKING UP against the Napocor "mafia" that is lobbying Congress to amend the power sector reform law, Epra.

The mafia's main target is the Epra provision that state monopoly Napocor must sell all of its power plants. Meaning, if the sons of their mothers succeed, happy days are here again for them! For us, power rates stay as the second highest in all of Asia! Thanks, Congress!

The move is apparently gaining support in Congress, due to the blessing of the Lola at the Palace for the notorious Napocor mafia.

But the influential American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in the Philippines recently commented against the move.

And here is Federico "Piki" Lopez, president of First Gen Corp., the Lopez group's arm in the power generation business.

"Amending the law will crack open a hornet's nest of controversy and uncertainty that will reverse all the gains achieved thus far."

Take that, you greedy bastards!

brands of shoes, luggage, bags and even outdoor wear.

Jimmy Thai, CEO of Primer—who actually partnered with his boyhood friends and brothers (and their friends) to start the business some 20 years ago—tells me that the group tries to promote its lines by putting up "mono product" outlets. You know—one single brand each store, apparently for visibility!

Thus, locally, Primer has about 60 stores in different malls, for instance, exclusively for its "Kuckers" and "Sanuk" brands.

Still, Primer carries many other brands which, according to Thai, are sold in large but mixed outlets, such as its huge "Travel Club" (all sorts of luggage and travel bags) store at the new Ayala mall, Trinoma.

Nevertheless, the lucrative business of regional distribution has long been the domain of companies in Singapore and Hong Kong, and their main target has always been the Philippines.

As far as I know, Primer is the first—and perhaps the only—Filipino group that dared to venture in the marketing and distribution business overseas.

It can be done!

FORMER Rep. Rene Diaz, who is also a former presidential assistant for Central Luzon, has a proposal to the Lola at the Palace about the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Clark.

He wants the administration to advance the plan for DMIA to get more scheduled flights than the Naia (Ninoy Aquino International Airport), and he wants it by 2010—or three years from now.

To Diaz, the construction of an international passenger terminal is critical, even just a modular design.

Frankly, most other airport terminals in the country are infinitely better than the DMIA terminal, which looks like it is still part of the military camp.

Look, at the frontage of the DMIA compound is a chicken-wire fence. I mean, where else in the world does an international airport look like a poultry farm?

DIAZ'S letter to the Lola also reads: "To facilitate this transfer, all airlines that want to fly into DMIA at Clark should be allowed irrespective of existing air rights from now until 2010."

"The local airlines should also be encouraged to transfer immediately part of their international and domestic flights to DMIA."

"If they fail to provide the service to both long range and short range routes, then other foreign airlines should be allowed to fly now and develop the market."

Don't you just smell a "free skies" (i.e. foreign airlines) lobby here?

IT SEEMS our beloved lawmakers are ignoring the fact that Napocor is still under the Energy Regulatory Commission's investigation for last year's price-fixing scandal.

The main figure in it was of course Napocor president Cyril del Cazar.

If Napocor could get involved in price manipulation in the past, nothing can prevent it from doing the same thing again, since it still controls the power generation business.

Now, imagine for a moment how those foreign investors will react if Congress amends the Epra to keep the Napocor monopoly.

Look, despite the scandal, featuring the head of Napocor no less, the ERC has yet to install safeguards against similar manipulations in the future.

As a result of the price fixing, we, the public, must now cough up some P2 billion more for our electric bills. Nice!

QUIETLY in the past two years, this little known Filipino company called Primer Group of Companies has been holding conferences and product exhibits for its so-called regional partners.

The "partners" actually come from Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam, all retailers, who carry all sorts of products marketed and distributed by Primer in the region.

Now, Primer has exclusive distribution rights in the region for several well known foreign

Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
Regional Office No. IV-A  
3rd Flr., Anderson Bldg. II, Brgy. Paranaque, Caloocan City  
Telex No. 10419 545-0232  
October 25, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS  
FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits.

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizen/Spouse	Position
1. HIGH FREQUENCY CIRCUIT TECH, INC. FCI, Brgy. Lantapan, Davao City Cotabato	Mr. Hideaki Takeuchi Japan	President
2. B&R COMMODITIES CORPORATION JSP, Brgy. Cabuyao, Laguna	Mr. Anil Ashok Advani India	President
3. CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT, INC. (CARDE) M.L. Quezon St., City Subd San Pablo City	Mr. Md. Schall Ahmed J Bangladesh	ASA Microfinance Senior Consultant Mentor

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s, please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III  
Regional Director

PDH October 24, 2007

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**SAGITTARIUS MINES, INC.**

The Tampakan Copper-Gold Project managed by Sagittarius Mines, Inc. (SMI) has the following vacancies for regular position.

**SECURITY OPERATIONS OFFICER**

The position will be responsible for the implementation of the Company's security policies, undertaking internal investigations, designing procedures, programmes, and systems to safeguard personnel, facilities, equipment, and materials. Salary is commensurate with the role and responsibilities.

As a minimum, the ideal candidate will:

- Preferably be a graduate of PMA / PNPA
- Have at least 15 years supervisory experience
- Have experience in supervising field security operations
- Be proficient in MS Office Applications
- Possess excellent oral and written communication
- Be able to relate across all levels of the organization
- Hold a professional driver's license (Restriction Codes 1, 2, 3)

**CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

The successful candidate will be responsible for the strategic direction of the Company's communication plans and achieve the desired project positioning outcomes. The functions will cover corporate imaging and branding, advertising and advocacy, marketing and crisis communications and issues management, and support the community and government relations teams.

As a minimum, the position requires the following:

- Master or Doctorate Degree, preferably in communications
- 10 years work experience in communications and communications management
- Excellent written and verbal communication abilities
- Proficient in MS Office application
- Has editorial and people skills
- Excellent in communication planning, strategic communications, project management, advocacy and marketing campaigns

**RESEARCHER / WRITER**

To be based in Makati, the role is primarily designed to contribute to the positioning of the Tampakan Project by writing and producing different materials for various media as prescribed in the communication plans and strategies and manage media relations at the national level.

Minimum requirements include:

- A Bachelor's Degree in Communications, Journalism, Research or any related course
- At least 3 years of work that requires research, writing and media relations
- Very good coordination, networking, and public relations skills
- Excellent writing ability in news, features, and information-education materials scripts
- Excellent language proficiency in English, Filipino and Visayan dialect

Qualified applicants are invited to submit their application letter with comprehensive resume and Transcript of Records not later than 05 November 2007 to:

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Sagittarius Mines, Inc.

JPM Building, Bula-Lagao Road

General Santos City

Tei No. (083) 552-8407

Fax No. (083) 552-8405

Email: [humanresources@smi.com.ph](mailto:humanresources@smi.com.ph)

(Please indicate in the subject the position being applied for.)

Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PANGASINAN DIVISION II  
Canarvecanan, Binanlonan, Pangasinan, Philippines  
Tel. # 075-562-2650 • Fax 075-562-4508

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The Department of Education, Pangasinan Division II, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

LOT	NAME OF CONTRACT	LOCATION	Approved Budget for the Contract	Contract Duration
A	Supply and Delivery of School Furniture CY 2007		PhP 2,279,000.00	90 CD
B	Supply and Delivery of School Furniture CY 2007	5th District	PhP 2,522,000.00	90 CD
C	Supply and Delivery of School Furniture CY 2007	6th District	PhP 3,292,000.00	90 CD

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The schedule of BAC Activities is as follows:

Activity	Date	Venue
1. Issuance of Bidding Documents	October 25-31, 2007	Cashier's Office
2. Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 5, 2007 @ 2:00 PM	Division Function Room
3. Deadline of Submission of Bids	Nov. 12, 2007 @ 2:00 PM	Division Function Room
4. Opening of Bids	Nov. 12, 2007 @ 2:00 PM	Division Function Room

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PhP 3,000.00 to the DepED Pangasinan Division II.

The DepED Pangasinan Division II, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) DONATO D. BALDERAS, JR.

BAC Chairperson

(PDH - October 25, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA  
Upper Calarian, Zamboanga City  
Tel. No. 991-1213, 983-0932 to 34, fax 991-3380  
E-mail: [dhchd@zphd@yahoo.com](mailto:dhchd@zphd@yahoo.com)

Standard Form Number: SF-INFR-06

Contract Reference Number: 07-010-047

Revised on: July 29, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DOH-Center for Health Development-Zamboanga Peninsula, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) range as "Medium" "A" with a license category "B" to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract: Construction of SS MOTHER & CHILD Hospital Building  
Location: Jolo, Sulu  
Bids Description: 2,435.0 sq. M. 2-storey main bldg. 27.0 aqm. power house & Overhead Concrete Water Tank  
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) PhP: 36,482,091.33  
Contract Duration: 360 calendar days

Prospective Bidders should possess a valid PCAB Licence applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of 50% of the ABC and have key personnel and equipment listed in the Eligibility Form(s) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	October 25 - November 8, 2007
Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 25 - November 8, 2007
Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	November 8, 2007 @ 10:00 A.M.
Notice of Result of Eligibility	November 10, 2007
Issuance of Bid Documents	November 14, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	November 19, 2007 10:00 A.M.
Receipt and Opening of Bids	December 4, 2007 10:00 A.M.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders eligibility Forms at DOH-Center for Health Development-Zamboanga Peninsula, Upper Calarian, Zamboanga City, upon submission of their LOI, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) for Eligibility Form to the DOH-Center for Health Development-Zamboanga Peninsula Cashier. Prospective Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) to the DOH-Center for Health Development-Zamboanga Peninsula Cashier.

The DOH-Center for Health Development-Zamboanga Peninsula assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

Approved:

(Sgd.) NIMFA B. TORREZO, MD, MPH

Chairperson

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDH - October 25, 2007)



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Republic of the Philippines  
Professional Regulation Commission  
Manila

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes cor. N. Reyes St. (formerly Morazan St.), Sampaloc, Manila, hereby invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Item for Bidding	Approved Budget for the Contract	Non-Refundable Fee	Pre-bid Conference	Date/Venue of Submission and Opening of Bids
LERIS and Web Portal Enhancement	PhP 6,500.00 (VAT inclusive)	PhP 6,500.00 (VAT inclusive)	November 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Room 2nd Floor, PRC Main Building	December 4, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Room 2nd Floor, PRC Main Building
Network Infrastructure Build-up	PhP 10,000.00 (VAT inclusive)	PhP 10,000.00 (VAT inclusive)	November 19, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Room 2nd Floor, PRC Main Building	December 4, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Room 2nd Floor, PRC Main Building
Office Systems Automation II	PhP 4,000.00 (VAT inclusive)	PhP 4,000.00 (VAT inclusive)	November 20, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Room 2nd Floor, PRC Main Building	December 5, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Room 2nd Floor, PRC Main Building

The LERIS and Web Portal Enhancement Project covers two (2) major components namely: (a) the design and development of additional functionalities and features, installing additional security / control features, and generalizing additional system & management reports among others, of the existing PRC Licensee Examination and Registration Information System (LERIS) which is an end-to-end real-time system covering online systems for application, payment, walk-in examination, registration, legal management, and executive information; and (b) the re-engineering of the current PRC Web Portal to enhance system security, integrity, availability, and accessibility of LERIS and other PRC web-based services / systems, as well as to enhance the portal's aesthetics and user-friendliness.

The Network Infrastructure Build-up Project involves the establishment of the PRC network infrastructure in anticipation of the deployment of PRC's critical information systems in selected areas, i.e., Manila, regional offices and global sites. The project covers the detailed investigation of PRC's network requirements based on the project's objective, analysis of the findings, formulation of solution infrastructure, design and physical layout of pertinent devices, procurement, installation, configuration testing, deployment, performance testing and training of nominated PRC personnel.

The Office Systems Automation II Project covers the design, and development of Asset Management Information System (AMIS); enhancement of the Performance Appraisal System (PAS) is part of the existing Human Resource Management Information System; and enhancement of the Electronic Cash Management System (eCMS) is a cashing system developed in Visual Basic) and convert it into a web-based system. AMIS covers the full range of asset management processes from planning, procurement, stock-keeping up to disposal. Performance appraisal covers individual personnel and office work measurement including automated collection of work accomplishments of personnel using the various computerized systems. eCMS will be used for all PRC services with payment transactions and will be interfaced with the LERIS and with eNGAS (Electronic National Government Accounting System). These three systems will be online/realtime, web-based, collaborative, and must be interfaced with other related PRC application systems / modules. Moreover, these must be integrated into the PRC internal collaborator portal.

Duration for the above project shall be maximum of one (1) year

Bidders may consist of local or joint local and foreign consultants duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and/or any agency authorized by the laws of the Philippines. Bidders shall obtain the list of eligible requirements at the office of Commissioner Nilo L. Rosas, BAC Chairman, at the 2nd floor, PRC Main Building, starting on October 25, 2007 with a non-refundable fee of P 1,000.00 for each of the abovementioned projects.

The prospective bidders shall submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) and Application for Eligibility at the office of the BAC Chairman on or before November 5, 2007. The eligibility forms shall be released upon the receipt of the LOIs and Applications for Eligibility.

The eligibility requirements shall be submitted not later than 10:00 in the morning on November 5, 2007 for LERIS Enhancement, 2:00 in the afternoon on November 8, 2007 for Network Infrastructure Build-up Project and 10:00 in the morning on November 9, 2007 for Office Systems Automation II at the PRC Conference Room, 2nd floor, PRC main building.

Prospective bidders shall be evaluated using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria against the checklist of eligibility requirements. ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS shall undergo short-listing based on the following criteria:

Criteria	LERIS Enhancement	Network Infrastructure	OSA II
1. Experience	50%	50%	50%
2. Capability			
a. Available Manpower and ICT Facilities	40%	40%	40%
b. Methodology/Approach	10%	10%	10%
Total Score	100%	100%	100%
Passing Score	80%	80%	80%

The Bidding documents and Terms of Reference (TORs) of the above projects shall be made available ONLY TO SHORTLISTED BIDDERS after paying the abovementioned non-refundable fee for each project starting

## OBITUARIES

ALFONSO SANTOS  
"PONCHIT"Peacefully joined our Creator on June 18, 2006  
in Yellowknife, NT Canada.His cremated remains will be interred after the  
2:00 pm Mass to be held at the Multi-Purpose Hall,  
Loyola Memorial Park Marikina on October 27, 2007He is lovingly remembered by his wife Nene Brosas  
Santos; his mother Engracia Delfino Santos; his  
sister Benilda S. Ramos & husband Tony;  
daughter Lourdes Rankin & husband Doug; son  
Anthony & girlfriend Jodie; grandchildren  
Victoria & Mitchell Rankin, relatives & friends.*"I have fought the good fight, I have  
finished the race, I have kept the faith."  
2 Timothy 4:7*

Our Dearly Beloved Mommy

## EDITHA G. VITASA

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 21, 2007  
at the age of 60.Her husband Rolando; her children Jun and Olga,  
Patricia and Donna and Paul, grandchildren Paeng, Yssa  
and Claire; brothers and sisters, request the pious readers  
to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz - Sucat  
(inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque CityTentative interment will be on Friday, October 26, 2007  
at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.*"I have fought the good fight, I have  
finished the race, I have kept the faith."  
2 Timothy 4:7*IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE  
2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF  
EXUPERANCIA F. RONQUILLO

November 14, 1912-October 25, 2005

Holy Mass will be offered on Sunday,  
October 28, 2007 at the Holy Family Parish Church,  
San Andres Bukid, Manila at 9:30 A.M.  
And at the following churches:

Manila Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception	7:30 A.M.
St. Anthony of Padua Parish	6:00 A.M.
Archdiocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Guia	6:30 A.M.
Immaculate Conception Parish, San Agustin Church	6:30 A.M.
Our Lady of Remedies, Malate	6:00 A.M.
Sta. Maria Goretti Parish	6:00 A.M.
St. Peter the Apostle Parish	6:00 A.M.
St. Vincent de Paul Parish	6:30 A.M.
St. Plus X Parish	6:00 A.M.
Holy Family Parish Church San Andres, Manila	6:30 A.M.

## BETTY REYES CERTEZA

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 23,  
2007 at the age of 80.Her loving husband Tim, children Bettina and Gil,  
Yolanda Lea and Ronald, Tim III and Sandra, and Michaela,  
grandchildren, sisters, relatives and friends request your  
prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.Her remains lie in state at St. Paul the Apostle Parish,  
Mother Ignacia St. cor. Timog Ave., Q. CThere will be a 1 PM Mass on October 27, 2007 at St. Paul  
the Apostle Parish. Cremation will follow at the Loyola  
Memorial, Marikina City*"I am the resurrection and life. He who  
believes in Me will live, even though he dies  
and whoever believes in Me will never die."*

-John 11:25-26

CIELINDO PAUL  
"Don-Don" L. LAOPeacefully joined our Lord  
at the age of 33His loving wife Karen Therese Cariaso-Lao, parents  
Drs. Leopoldo and Celia, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts,  
nephews, nieces, in-laws, relatives and friends request the  
pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soulHis remains lie in state at Our Lady of Remedies  
Chapel, Don Enrique Heights, Capitol Hills,  
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.Interment at Humayang Pilipino Memorial Park,  
Tandang Sora Avenue, Quezon City immediately follows  
after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on October 27, 2007, Saturday at  
Our Lady of Remedies Chapel.LAURA DOROTHEA "NANAY"  
PEREZ VALENTONthe beloved wife of Eliodoro Valenton (†)  
who joined our Creator on the  
20th of October 2007 at the age of 87Friends and family may view her remains at Nicanor  
Memorial Homes, Araneta Ave., Quezon City. The interment  
will be held at Eternal Gardens, Kalookan City on Saturday,  
October 27, 2007 after the 1 p.m. necrological service at  
Nicanor Memorial Homes.From her children Candido Daniel "Danny" & Lucy,  
Eliodoro Jr. "Dodo" & Ellen, Laura "Uni" Macaraeg and  
Liza & Nick Amparo; her brothers and sisters, grandchildren,  
and great-grandchildren.*"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want... And I shall dwell  
in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23)*

## OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any Identification document (I.D.)

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In Loving Memory  
on the 19th Death Anniversary of  
Godofredo "Fred" C.  
Fernandezwho passed away on 25 October 1988  
The family requests relatives,  
friends & pious readers  
to pray for his eternal repose.  
Thank you and God Bless!and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom  
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:22  
DOLORES IBANEZ - NORONAof Kinabangan, Davao Oriental  
Our Beloved Mama peacefully joined her Creator and  
her husband, ROSARIO V. NORONA on October 23, 2007 at the age of 84.  
Her loving children LINDA, LEAH, ROSALYN and MARVIN; in-laws and  
grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.  
Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, G. Araneta Avenue,  
Quezon City  
Interment will be on Friday, October 26, 2007 at the Loyola Memorial Park,  
Marikina City after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Solace 2 Chapel of Arlington.*"I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said."*

(Luke 2:38)

SR. MARY ANNUNCIATA CAHIMBINGAN  
SALAMATIN, R.G.S.

(baptized Eufrosina and popularly known as Sr. Clats)

(7 May 1923 - 24 October 2007)

Consciously surrendered to God's call on her 84th year after 53 years as a Good Shepherd Sister,  
working and taught for the poor  
The Philippine Province of the Good Shepherd and her siblings, Amando and Aida, request your  
prayerful remembranceThe wake is at the Good Shepherd Chapel, 043 Aurora Boulevard, Q. C. Her ashes will be  
interred in the cemetery inside the compound, following the 8 a.m. Mass of the  
Resurrection on Saturday, 27 October 2007

An offering for Sister Clats' project for the poor in Paracel will be appreciated.

## CLASSIFIEDS

## Contract Manager

The US Naval Facilities Engineering command is seeking qualified applicants for the position of  
service contract project manager at WESMINCOM Zamboanga City, Mindanao. Contract currently  
encompasses aviation and waterfront operations, dining facility operation, MWR, facilities support.  
Employment will initially be via annual renewable contract. Qualified applicants will be required to  
have appropriate clearances and will preferably have had prior military experience. Submit resume,  
compensation requirements, and inquiries to: [HR@naviacpacific.us](mailto:HR@naviacpacific.us).

## Quality Assurance Representative

The US Naval Facilities Engineering command is seeking qualified applicants for the position of  
quality assurance representative at WESMINCOM Zamboanga City, Mindanao. The position will  
provide quality assurance for service contracts and construction contracts. Employment will initially  
be via annual renewable contract. Qualified applicants will be required to have a minimum of a BS in  
an appropriate engineering curriculum from an accredited university. Submit resume, compensation  
requirements, and inquiries to: [HR@naviacpacific.us](mailto:HR@naviacpacific.us).REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUEOffice of the Regional Director  
Revenue Region No. 3  
Tuguegarao City

## NOTICE OF SALE

To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:  
Pursuant to the provisions of Section 216 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 as amended,  
the undersigned will sell all public auction in one whole lot for cash, in the highest bidder at the Office  
of the Regional Director, 3rd Floor, ATI Building, Don Domingo, Tuguegarao City on the 26th day of  
November, 2007 beginning at 10:00 in the morning of said day, the following acquired/reited real  
properties of Bureau of Internal Revenue in the name of the Republic of the Philippines, described as  
follows:

## DESCRIPTION OF REAL PROPERTIES

- Administrative Building erected on the lot of Isabela Electric Cooperative covering an area of 425 sq. m. under Tax Declaration No. 99-01-033-01285 located at Victoria, Alicia, Isabela with a Market Value of P 1,224,000.00;
- General Manager's Quarters erected on the lot of Isabela Electric Cooperative covering an area of 225 sq. m. under TCT No. T-21453 located at Victoria, Alicia, Isabela with a Market Value of P 432,000.00;
- Multi-Purpose Building erected on the lot of Isabela Electric Cooperative under TCT No. 214453 covering an area 450 sq. m. under Tax Declaration No. 99-01-033-01290 located at Victoria, Alicia, Isabela with a Market Value of P 1,286,000.00;
- Warehouse erected on the lot of Isabela Electric Cooperative under TCT No. T-214453 covering an area of 370.82 sq. m. under Tax Declaration No. 99-01-033-01288 located at Victoria, Alicia, Isabela with a Market Value of P355,800.00

The Bureau of Internal Revenue reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formally  
submitted bid and accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the government, or call  
for a bidding prior to acceptance of the bids and call for a new bid under amended rates. The decision  
of the Awards and Bids Committee (ABC) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue is final and binding.  
Done in the City of Tuguegarao, Province of Cagayan, Philippines this 18th day of October, 2007  
Piper Price P3,307,800.00COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE  
By:  
(Sgd.) ROMEO P. BUAN  
HEAD, REGIONAL OFFICE TASK FORCE  
DRC Regional Director

(PDI - October 25 &amp; November 1, 2007)

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WE BUY CASH

## UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines Diliman, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites constituents to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and it issued notice and circular, to bid for the foregoing project:

Name of Contract	Construction Management Services for the Construction of Roads
Location	The National Science Complex, University of the Philippines Diliman
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P76,999.00
Contract Duration	

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using a non-discriminatory "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible constituents will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant, qualification of personnel and current workload. Only five (5) eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/QCBS). The University of the Philippines shall indicate the weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial Proposals. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The instructions of instructions to be followed:

1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI)	Until 7 November 2007
2. Bidders' Prequalification Circular	Until 7 November 2007
3. Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Requirements	14 November 2007 8:00 a.m.
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check / Short Listing	21 November 2007
5. Issuance of Terms of Reference and Bid Documents	
6. Submission of Bids	29 November 2007 8:00 a.m.
7. Receipt of Technical and Financial Proposals	11 December 2007 9:30 a.m.
8. Evaluation of Technical and Financial Proposals	11 December 2007 10:00 a.m.
9. Opening of Financial Proposals	13 December 2007, 10:00 a.m.

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at the Office of the Campus Architect (OCA), Coral Building, cor. Delos Reyes and Lakanlula Streets, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, upon submission of a Letter of Intent, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P50.00 to the JP Cashier. Submission and results of eligibility, as well as the Pre-bid Conference, shall be in the same office. Bid Documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee to the JP Cashier.

The University of the Philippines assumes no responsibility whatsoever whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) MARY DELIA G. TOMACRUZ

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on pageDepartment of Labor and Employment - NCR  
Department of Labor and Employment - Reg. IVPage A22  
Page B5

# BUSINESS

## BIR to pursue cases vs banks on DSTs

Court says special deposit accounts subject to the tax

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE said it would not drop the cases against banks that allegedly owe the government multibillion pesos in documentary stamp taxes, even if they apply for tax amnesty.

Revenue Commissioner Lihau Hefti said it was for the government's best interest to pursue the cases, especially since there was a need to raise tax collections and wipe out the budget deficit.

Under the recently enacted Tax Amnesty law, even tax evaders that have already been charged in courts may apply for amnesty. The law also says that once a taxpayer qualifies for amnesty, court cases against it would be dropped.

Despite this, Hefti said, the BIR was bent on pursuing the court cases. She said the BIR had won similar cases in the past involving DST liabilities on special savings accounts. This, she said, meant the courts had already decided that banks had to pay DST on special savings accounts. This came about prior to the enactment of the Tax Amnesty law, she said.

The tussle between the BIR and the banking industry stemmed from the creation of special savings deposits in the 1990s, which were created for clients who wanted higher yields and the comfort of being able to withdraw their money anytime.

Under the National Internal Revenue Code, time deposit accounts, which have higher interests, are subject to DST but ordinary savings accounts are not.

Banks did not remit DST on special savings deposit accounts. Members of the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) claimed special savings accounts should not be subject to DST because these were different from time deposits.

DST is equivalent to P1 per P200 worth of documented financial transaction.

Upon receiving tax assessment notices from the BIR, the banks filed cases in court. Some cases have already been decided upon by the Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the BIR, saying that special savings accounts are subject to the DST.

But the BIR said there were still cases against some banks that were pending in court, and that the government could

generate tens of billions in pesos more if the alleged tax liabilities would be collected.

The BIR's efforts to run after the remaining tax liabilities, however, suffered a setback with the Tax Amnesty law. Under the law, an amnesty applicant is required to pay an amnesty fee equivalent to only 5 percent of the increase in its net worth arising from the amendment of its statement of assets, liabilities and net worth.

Hefti said it was likely that some, if not all, of the concerned banks would apply for tax amnesty. The banks could file a motion for the court to junk their tax cases in the light of their amnesty application.

"If they do this, we (the BIR) will object and tell the courts that we are not going to drop the cases," Hefti said, adding that the BIR would neither initiate the withdrawal of the cases nor approve the applications for amnesty.

The commissioner said the BIR would only do otherwise if the court decided that the banks were qualified for amnesty and that cases against them should be dropped.

## Shell CNG stations start operations

By Abigail L. Ho

BINAN, LAGUNA—AFTER YEARS of delay, the Shell Companies in the Philippines finally started the commercial run yesterday of its

mother-daughter compressed natural gas (CNG) refilling stations.

The mother station is in Tabangao, Batangas while the daughter or refilling station is in Binan, Laguna.

This meant that the first 22 CNG-fed buses in the country could now start plying the Laguna-Cubao/Lawton and Batangas-Cubao/Lawton routes.

In a speech during yesterday's launch, President Macapagal-Arroyo said this was a significant step in "countering the threat of increasing oil prices and pollution."

"We're reducing dependence on imported fuel and promoting clean air. We're promoting natural gas as a clean alternative fuel for transport," she said.

These CNG-fed buses would be enjoying a more than 50-percent cut in fuel costs, as the CNG to be sold by Shell was priced at only P14.52 a liter.

The operation of Shell's mother-daughter stations is part of the government's Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPT), a seven-year pilot program that will peg the price of CNG at P14.52 a liter, less than half the price of diesel, for participating bus operators.

The Department of Energy expects 200 CNG-fed buses to be delivered to the country, 185 of which have already been allotted to accredited bus firms.

These accredited bus operators include HM Transport Inc. with 80 units, KL Transport with 40 units, RRCG Transport and Pascual Liner Inc. with 20 units each, Greenstar Express Inc. and

CNG Vehicles Corp. with 10 units each, and BBL Transport System Inc. with five units.

Right now, DOE energy utilization and management bureau director Mario Marasigan said there were only 22 CNG-fed buses in the country. The remaining 178 buses under the pilot program should be shipped to the country within the next six months.

"This pilot program will allow us to determine the economic viability of using CNG for public transport. We should be able to see at least 2,000 buses during these seven years," he said in an interview.

Shell country chair Edgar Chua said it was still too early to say whether or not the Shell Group would put up more daughter stations in various areas in the near future.

He said the factors to be considered included supply and demand, as well as the availability of natural gas from the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project in offshore Palawan.

The Shell Group, through Shell Philippines Exploration BV, holds a 45-percent stake in the Malampaya project.

The first daughter station cost the Shell Group P100 million.

"We have to see how the (pilot program) will go, and see the supply and demand situation," he said.

## Lafayette ships \$8.3M worth of copper, zinc

By Amy R. Remo

AUSTRALIAN FIRM LAFAYETTE Mining Ltd. yesterday said it had dispatched four concentrate shipments of copper and zinc in the third quarter of the year, valued at about \$8.38 million.

In a report, Lafayette said these shipments were loaded through its port facilities in Rapa Rapa Island and was dispatched to offshore smelters.

These were sold through its contracted off-taker, LG International, to customers in China and Korea, it added.

Under stockpile financing arrangement with LG International, Lafayette received \$8.19 million in advance payments for the

future sale of concentrates.

During the quarter, the average copper price was \$7,712 a ton, while the average zinc price was \$3,227 a ton.

Precious metal prices were at \$679.82 an ounce for gold and \$12.65 an ounce for silver.

In the same period, Lafayette said the metal production from its Rapa Rapa Polymetallic project in Albay has increased by 12 percent to 1,726 equivalent tons of copper being produced from the second quarter's 1,543 equivalent tons.

The third quarter production included 878 tons of copper, 1,705 tons of zinc, 1,522 ounces of gold and 38,525 ounces of silver.

## SM Pampanga opens annex

SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC. opened last Friday the third annex of its SM City Pampanga, one of the largest malls in Central Luzon.

This adds 17,439 square meters of gross floor area to the main mall. Two previous annexes were built in 2002 and 2003. With the opening of Annex 3, SM City Pampanga now has a total GFA of 128,089 sq.m. and a total building length of 890 meters long.

SM Prime president Hans Sy

said: "Our continued expansion in Pampanga is testimony to its strong local economy. Its proximity to Metro Manila and Subic, combined with its international airport in Clark Special Economic Zone makes the province an ideal regional gateway and hub."

SM City Pampanga's Annex 3 has 14,025 sq.m. of gross leasable area (GLA) and will house several restaurants and apparel shops.

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Member of the PDC. Minimum initial deposit for each Depositor is P250,000.

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

LITEREST



## More than just pastrami on rye

**COUNTRY COOKING**  
Micky Fenix

MY GUIDES MYRNA SEGISMUNDO and her sister Alice brought me to one of New York's finest eating places where they said one scene from the movie "When Harry Met Sally" was shot.

It was where Sally (Meg Ryan) showed Harry (Billy Crystal) her orgasmic demonstration. Sure enough, one table had a sign to mark the spot where Harry and Sally sat. It also said, "Hope you have what she had."

What Sally most probably had (if she had been a real person) would have been the specialty of Katz's Delicatessen. It is pastrami on rye, a huge sandwich made of several layers of what is considered traditional Jewish food.

Katz's Delicatessen is a landmark in the city's gastronomic history. Since its founding in 1888, the deli has been producing the same kinds of cured, brined and pickled products for New Yorkers.

Apart from the pastrami, it also serves corned beef, baked brisket, knobelewurst (beef sausage), tongue, salami, bologna, liverwurst.

On one side of the restaurant, a huge hangar-like place at 205 East Houston Street, several people do the sandwiches ordered at the counter. We chose the one who looked Filipino. My guides briefed me on what was to happen.

### A taste first

First he takes out a big slab of pastrami, then slices a bit for you to taste. If he likes you, he slices a bit more. When you approve of it, which is really likely, he starts slicing thin pieces and layers it on top of a slice of bread. Before he puts the other bread on top, he asks if you want mustard. He then proceeds to wipe it with the deli's very good golden mustard.

After that he gives you brined cucumber and pickles and off you go to savor this New York specialty.

One of the practices, I was told, was to give a little tip to the counterman, a dollar or two, so he would give you a bit more of the meat. He probably does not really give you more but it is a nice gesture of appreciation for his work.

Our's even posed without being asked when he saw me with a camera. And then he declared he was from Manila. I doubted it.

I had to research how pastrami was made because I was not familiar with it. The meat, beef brisket, is brined then dried and seasoned with herbs and spices like black pepper, cloves, basil, marjoram. Then it is smoked. Before serving, it is steamed.

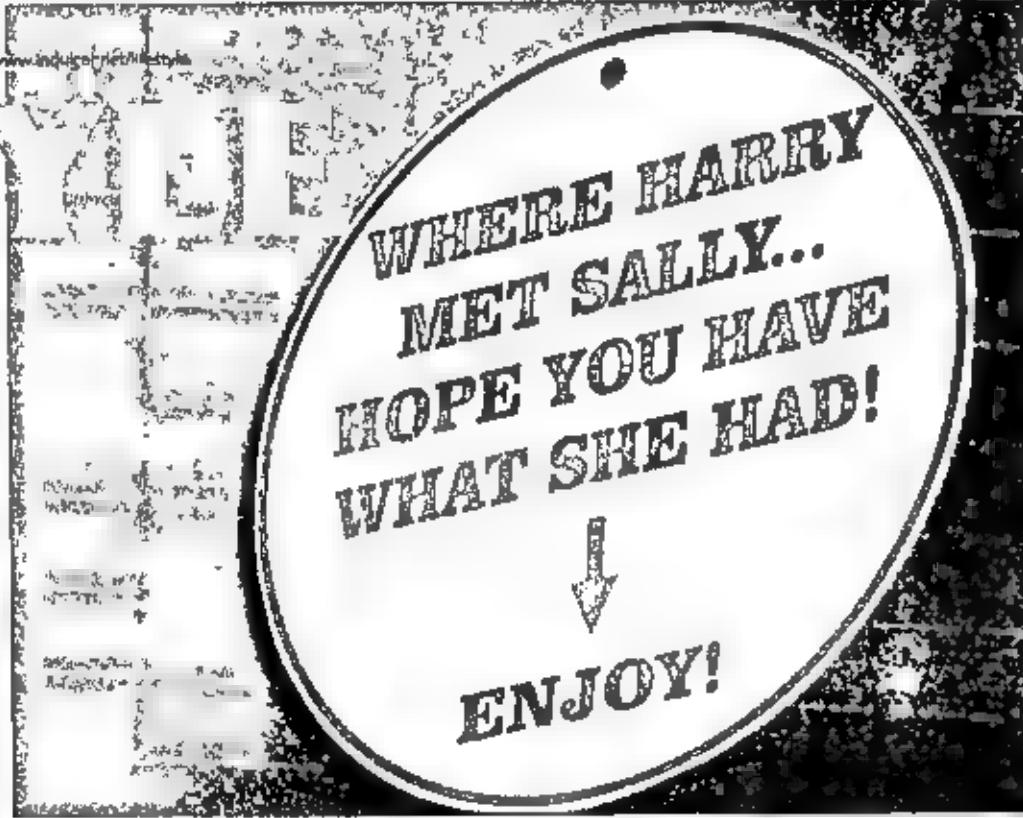
When the counterman showed me the pastrami the first time, the surface was all black but it did look like it was steamed.

If you eat it right at Katz's, you may experience

MORE THAN 24



COUNTERMAN shows off the finished product.



PASTRAMI on rye of Katz's Delicatessen and, above, the sign says it all.

Leave your company  
Christmas party to us.  
and we'll take care of the rest.



Get great deals on your favorite langhap-sarap treats with  
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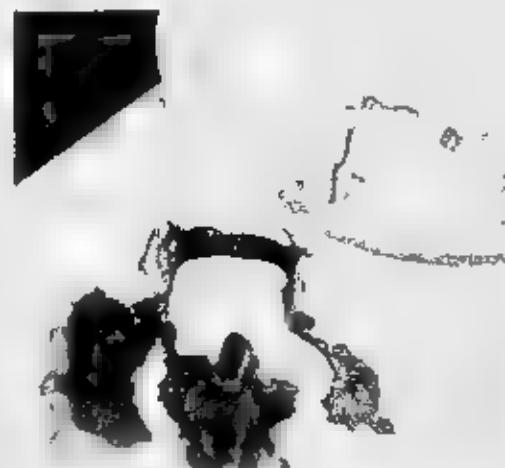
1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th, 31st of the Month

Promo period: until December 13, 2007

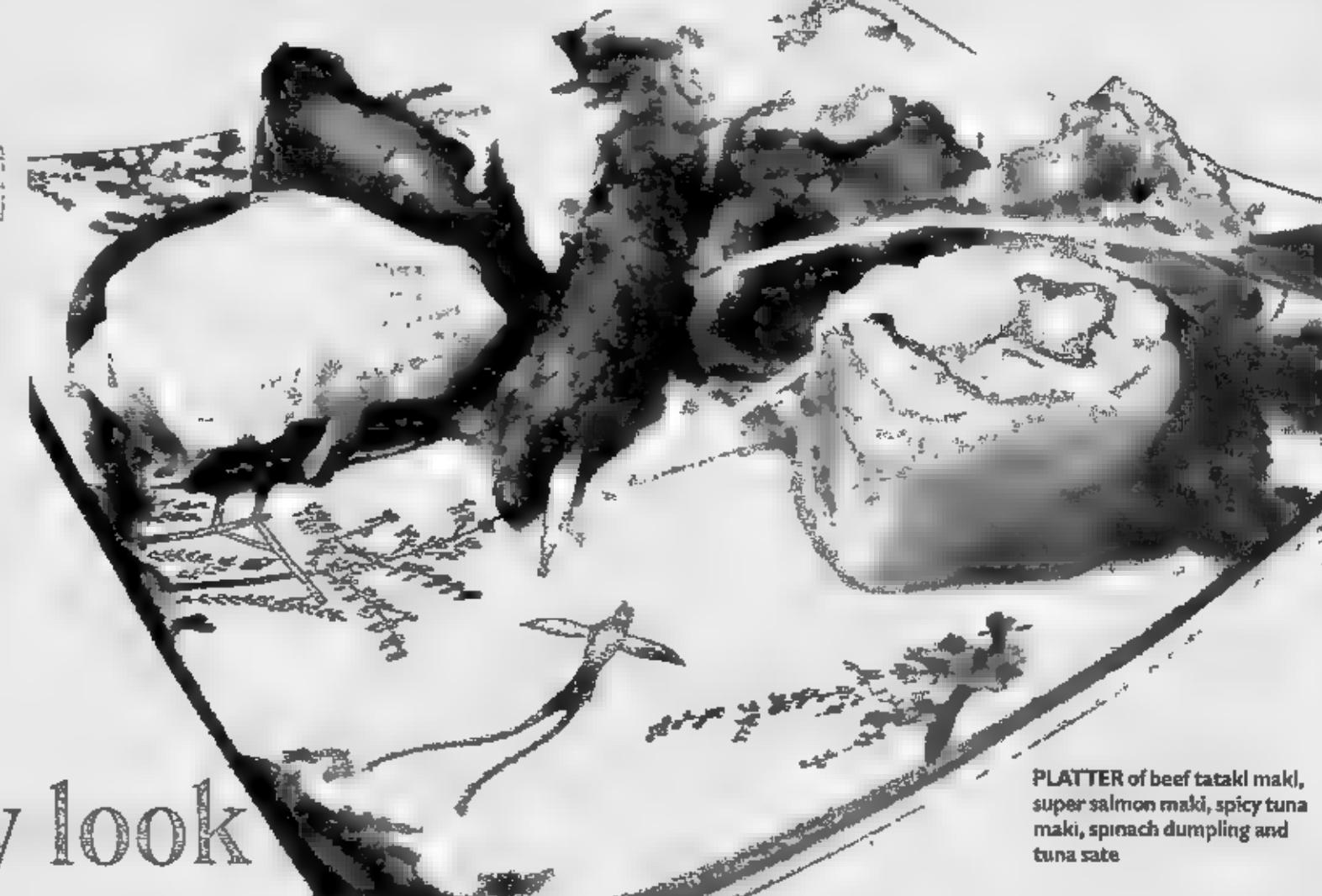
Big Valentine's Day



East  
Creative  
Asian  
retains  
the dishes'  
original  
flavors but  
the plating  
is modern



PECAN Walnut Tart a la mode from Caffé Molinari



PLATTER of beef tataki maki, super salmon maki, spicy tuna maki, spinach dumpling and tuna sashimi

# Authentic taste, contemporary look

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes  
Photos by Roger Carpio

**A**MERRY MIX OF SOUTHEAST Asian specialties highlights the new menu of East Creative Asian (formerly East Café) on the second level of Rustan's Makati.

Prepare to be charmed by an innovative line of makis, ramens, dumsum, soups and salads creatively presented by chef Him Uy de Baron.

"The menu is eclectic," says De Baron. "It has Japanese, Chinese, Thai, Singaporean and Fibpino dishes. It's all Asian, but never fusion. We try to be as authentic as we can but we always present the food in a more contemporary way. The flavors are more refined, but the food is still what it is. If I say adobo ribs, it's still beef ribs but plated and served nicely."

The restaurant changes its menu annually and holds regular food festivals such as the much-talked-about tofu festival, Chinese New Year and other events.

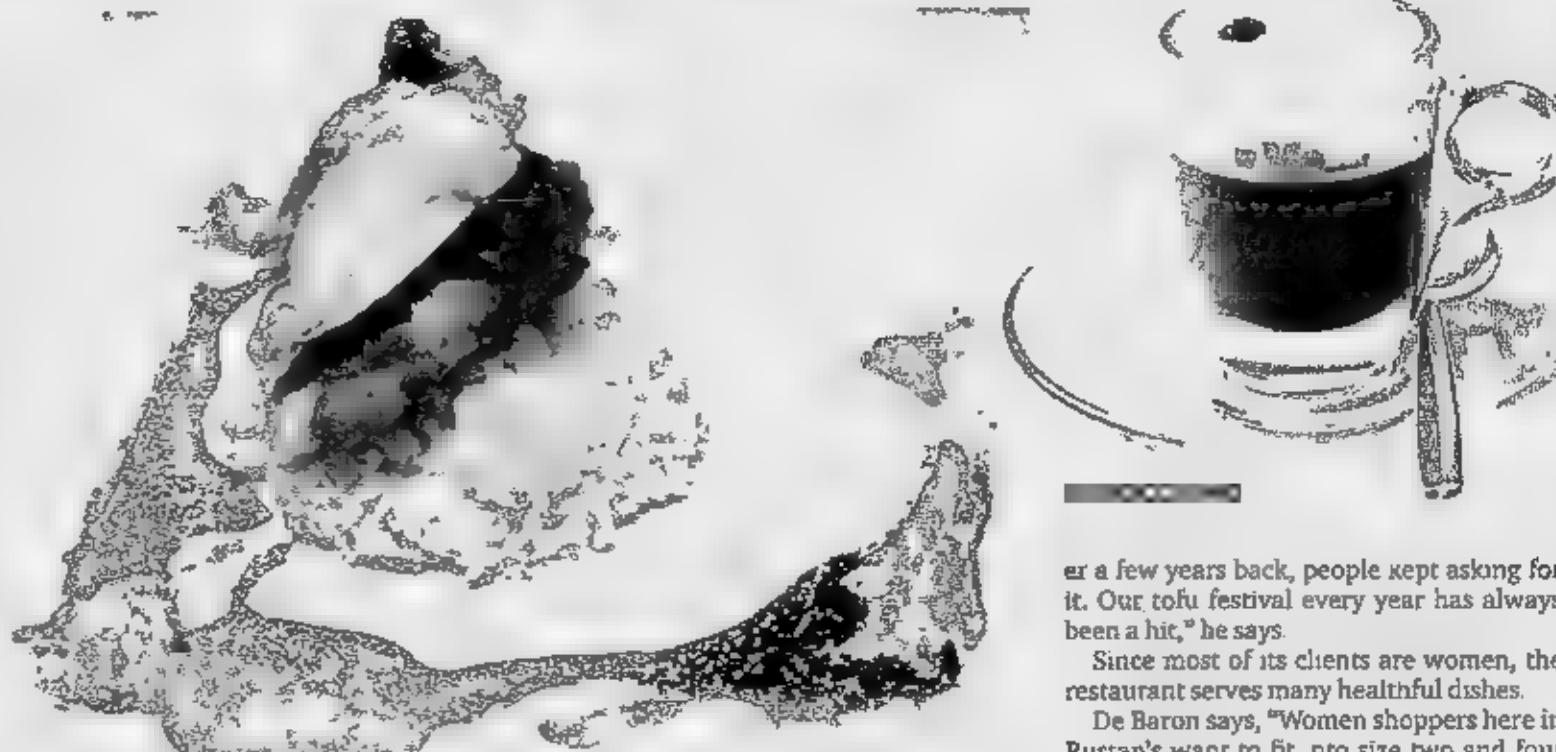
"I pick out the things that people enjoy in the festivals and incorporate them in the new menu. So, this menu is also a mix of past festivals," De Baron says.

The menu has a wide assortment of makis like Super Salmon Maki (smoked salmon with cucumber and mango), Beef Tataki Maki (beef tenderloin with avocado, tam yao and cucumber) and Ebi Tempura Maki with Kani (crunchy prawn tempura maki topped with kani salad).

All the salads are new. Not to be missed is the Salt-and-Pepper Crab Salad, soft-shell crab cooked with salt and pepper and spiced with ginger and garlic and blended with aioli on greens.

The Singaporean Lo Hei Salad is one of the more interesting items on the menu. It is a traditional Chinese New Year salad served with shredded carrots, cucumber, radish, pickled ginger, cucumber, calamansi and slices of salmon.

The special Lo Hei dressing, made with



ROAST Hainanese Chicken Rice



DEEP-FRIED Seabass with mushroom and tofu



SINGAPOREAN Lo Hei Salad. At right, chef Him Uy de Baron adds spices to the salad, a traditional Chinese New Year dish.



plum sauce, is mixed in the dish and tossed. It can be topped with crushed peanuts, black and white sesame seeds, sugar and other spices.

"It's quite a unique and refreshing dish. It's meant to bring good luck to those who eat it," says De Baron.

Main entrees consist of very filling stuff, including the Roast Hainanese Chicken Rice. The chef does not do the dish the typical way—poaching and steaming the chuck-

Instead, he roasts the chicken after marinating it in some strong spices, and serves it served with the traditional three sauces: sambal, ginger and sweet soy.

Many vegans go to the restaurant for its tofu specialties. Although there is no vegetarian section, it offers such items as vegetarian gyoza, maki and ramen.

"I've added more vegetarian items here because, when we launched our tofu burg-

er a few years back, people kept asking for it. Our tofu festival every year has always been a hit," he says.

Since most of its clients are women, the restaurant serves many healthful dishes.

De Baron says, "Women shoppers here in Rustan's want to fit into size two and four dresses. So, I want to help them."

#### Afternoon crowd

With the new menu, East Creative Asian hopes to draw more people during afternoon merienda time.

"A lot of people shop during the afternoon and our goal is for them to stay in Rustan's instead of going all the way to Glorietta," says De Baron.

The restaurant has an assortment of ramens for the afternoon crowd. Choices include Gomoko (noodles with shrimp, squid, pork and veggies), Mapo Tofu (noodles with pork, tofu and shiitake mushroom) and Mee Goreng (fresh egg and vermicelli noodles with chicken, tofu and vegetables).

"I wanted more comfort food in the afternoon. I also added sandwiches, which we didn't have before," he says.

Tonkatsu, Tuna with Tomato Jam, Curried kani with sesame crust and Tofu Burger are on the sandwich list.

To complete the snack-time experience, the restaurant has partnered with a popular Italian coffee shop.

Caffé Molinari is a 207-year-old institution in Modena, Italy. The Molinari family owns the chain of coffee shops in Italy and supplies hotels and restaurants all over the world with their coffee beans. They have their own coffee-roasting plant and use only the freshest and finest coffee beans.

Caffé Molinari has a wide array of coffee and tea concoctions. Coffee blends include Java Robusta, Jamaica Arabica Blue Mountain, Guatemala Arabica, and Costa Rica Arabica.

"Now that we have the Caffé Molinari, we don't have to use the name East Café anymore. We want to be known as East Creative Asian restaurant," says De Baron.

CHOCO Loco Glaze

## 7-year-old says thanks

MR. SOFTY PHILIPPINES, which pioneered in fresh ice cream, is now 7 years old.

Establishing its franchise system in 2004, after three years of operation, Mr. Softy now has 175 outlets nationwide.

To celebrate its 7th anniversary, the company is offering its loyal clients new products.

Mr. Softy has included Rumble Crunch, Choco Loco, and Strawberry Kiwi Glaze and Cup with

Toppings to its list of flavors.

Customers also get a chance to win a Nokia N70, iPod nano, laptop, gift certificates. The second draw will be held Nov. 11.

All non-winning entries from Aug. 22-Jan. 5 shall be included in the grand draw, which will be held Jan. 6 at the SM Megamall Activity Center. At stake is a brand-new Honda City. Venues for the first and second draws will be announced later.



STRAWBERRY Kiwi Glaze

## When being 'gaya-gaya' can be good

By Linda B. Bolido

FILIPINOS ARE ALWAYS BEING ACCUSED of mindlessly following the trend in the United States.

Many attempts by Pinoys to live up to the moniker "little brown Americans" had disastrous consequences.

But here is a new development in the US, as reported by the New York Times, that Filipinos should not hesitate to adopt.

According to Kevin Sack, concern for the growing number of overweight and obese American children has sparked a quiet revolution that is steadily spreading throughout the US.

Sack said "the nation's schools have made 'considerable improvements' in nutrition, fitness and health over the last six years."

He cited a new government survey that found that more schools required physical education and fewer sold French fries in their cafeterias.

Instead, many cafeteria counters now offered salad, fruit and yogurt.

More and more schools required an hour of physical education daily. Bake sales, traditional school events in many schools, are now becoming increasingly rare occurrences.

In addition, Sack said, "More states have enacted policies to prohibit smoking at school and to require courses on pregnancy prevention. Perhaps most striking, 30 percent of school districts have banned junk food from school vending machines, up

from four percent in 2000."

Although the survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control found that three-fourths of schools still sold sodas, sales in bottled water rose from 30 percent to 46 percent.

The basis for this healthy trend is a law Congress passed in 2004 "requiring each school district to develop a 'wellness policy' to promote the students' health by setting goals for nutrition education and physical activity."

Sepulveda Middle School in Los Angeles County has not only banned soft drinks and junk food from the school store, it has also started a class on healthy cooking for parents.

Principal Patricia J. Pellegrini believes healthy kids and healthy lifestyles mean better students.

Sack said, "The survey found that nearly two-thirds of schools prohibited tobacco use in all locations, including at off-campus functions, up from 46 percent in 2000."

Many school cafeterias reported healthier cooking like removing the skin from poultry before cooking, using low-fat cheeses, etc.

There are those who will argue that among Filipino students, the problem is not the availability of unhealthy food but the ability to buy food in the first place.

That is true, of course, and the solution is much more complex. But at least for those who do buy food when they are in school, education officials can make sure they are eating healthy.

### Feedback

It was not so long ago that I wrote about the persistent and annoying text messages from a bank offering loans.

That bank did manage to rein in its overzealous telemarketers but now I am getting it from agents of Standard Chartered Bank. "Nid Cash? Standard Chartered Bank offers cashloan up to 1M, 4 as low as 1%, no collateral, PDC, f interested pls txt name& landlyn # so we can col u 4 d details."

The question remains, how do these people get post-paid numbers?

Others who have complained strongly suspect subscription lists of the mobile networks are being made available to telemarketers.

Meanwhile, the generosity of the D'Auditor's of Phil. Charity Foundation remains boundless. One of our editorial production assistants received a text message from a certain Alfred S. Chua informing her "dat ur celon no. won Php500,000.00 2nd prize winner draw last 10/15/07."

A letter writer received a similar message: "D'Auditor's of PGMA Charity Foundation n'form u dat ur celon nos. won 750,000 2nd prize winner last draw October (8) 2007 Plz call me now."

The sender identified himself as Atty. Roldan G. Reyes.

This is a pretty generous foundation as it appears to be holding raffles every week. Do they still have enough for whatever dooing they are supposed to do?

And how come nobody has received a message saying he/she won first prize? What's with the second prize?

As for others who are told they won something from their networks, here's another reminder from Globe/Touch Mobile.

"Globe/TM Public Advisory: Beware of text messages asking you to share load or send GCash from unknown numbers. Please be warned that Globe Telecom never asks subscribers for Prepaid load or GCash before claiming a prize."

One Globe executive says one of the things that will clue you in that an offer is spurious is bad English.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; or e-mail [lbolido@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:lbolido@inquirer.com.ph)

More and more American schools are banishing sodas and junk food from their canteens

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### COOKING CLASSES

#### Rockin' rolls and seafood buffet

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS SCHOOL OF CULINARY ARTS is holding the following classes:

Oct. 26: Rockin' Rolls (all new)—12 Kinds of Spring Rolls (egg rolls, shanghai, seafood shanghai, duck, curry, lechon, vegetable, shrimp etc.), Spring Rolls Were Never this Good, homemade dipping sauces

Oct. 27: Seafood Buffet '07 (all new, special class)—Crisp Fried Seafood with Achi and Salsa Cruda (if only for this, this class is worth it!), Oysters Six Ways—Baked with bacon butter, with garlic boursin, with mushroom cream, with Foie Gras Butter; Shucked Raw with flavored granita, Prawn Mignonette. Baked Mussels 3 Ways with French Herb and Garlic Butter, with Saffron Butter Cream, with Herbed Butter and Salsa. Seafood Paella Pasta. Mixed Seafood Rice "Arroz Caldoso" Style

Oct. 29—Don't We Just Love Pancit? '07 (all new)—Learn To Use Different Noodles: Pina-Sosyal na Canton, Yakisoba Like Never Before, Pancit with Pork Leg Stew (Pata-Para), Pancit with Scallops and Coriander Pesto, Pancit with Chinese Sausage and Coriander Chops, Pork Asado Served with Pancit Salad

Oct. 31—Lapu-lapu (all new)—Live

Steamed 3 Ways: Cantonese Style with Rice Wine Sauce, In Ginger Glaze with Sautéed Mushrooms & Orange Black Bean Sauce, Pan-grilled 3 Ways: with Miso Sauce, with Oriental Butter Cream Sauce & with Tomato Cream Sauce. Baked 2 Ways: with Coconut Cream Sauce, in Salt Crust with Sauces, sides.

Call 9289296 or 9273008.

#### A taste of Thailand

Learn Thai cooking as San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center presents "Taste of Thailand," a special cooking class on Oct. 26, 1:30-4:30 p.m., at Legaspi cor. Eagle Sts., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City. Featured are Tum Supawadee Lungtup and Al Purugganan of Jatujak Thai Restaurant.

Fee is P900. Members of My Great Food Club get a 20-percent discount (tel: 6322000 or 6719876 loc 2771 or 402 or log on to [www.mygreatfood.com](http://www.mygreatfood.com))

The event is in partnership with Monterey, Magnolia, Chicken Station, Purefoods Hormel, Magnolia Quickmelt Cheese, Magnolia Gold Butter, Purefoods Supremo Canoe Vinegar, San Mig Coffee, Magnolia Pancake Plus and Magnolia Nutri-oil. It is sponsored

by Glad Wraps, G. E. Appliances and Ariston.

#### Japanese home cooking

Maya Kitchen presents culinary demonstrations and offers tips on Japanese Home Cooking on Oct. 27 at 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Menu includes Kani Salad, Japanese Curry, Tonkatsu, Tempura, Japanese Spaghetti, Japanese Ham-burger and Sushi.

"Coffee 101 (Barista Class)" will be conducted on Oct. 27, 2-6 p.m. It will include actual preparation of popular traditional hot coffee concoction: Espresso, Cappuccino, Latte, etc. and Cold Coffee Concoction and Spins.

"Basic Culinary" will be offered on Nov. 6-9, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. It will include basic principles of hygiene, sanitation and safety, actual preparation of dishes.

The art of making bread will be covered by "Fundamentals of Bakery Production," on Nov. 13-16, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Class covers standard baking techniques, etc.

Maya Kitchen is at 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati. Call 8921185 or 8925011 loc. 108, e-mail [mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph](mailto:mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph).

#### CENTER FOR ASIAN CULINARY STUDIES

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Email: [cafesabe@mydestiny.net](mailto:cafesabe@mydestiny.net) / [cacsdo@gmail.com](mailto:cacsdo@gmail.com)

#### CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN COOKING AND BAKING SKILLS

##### Course Description

Lessons cover all areas of basic kitchen skills meat, fish, poultry and seafood fabrication; vegetables; pasta and other starch accompaniments and internationally accepted standards for baking. Menu planning and wine appreciation will be part of the program.

This hands-on series is intended for individuals or kitchen enthusiasts who have no chance or schedules to take the full time professional culinary program and yet would like to acquire necessary basic skills, tools and techniques to enable them to enhance their careers or enter a more lucrative world of recreational and even, professional cooking and baking. This series will culminate with a lunch buffet prepared by the students. Graduates will merit a government regulated (TESDA), National Level 3.

The 20-day 28 session course will be handled by top chef restaurateurs and consultants and will be limited to 25 students. Enrollment includes ingredients, chef's jacket, manual and chef's kit. NO HIDDEN CHARGES!

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EVERY SUNDAYS FROM 9 - 4 PM

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Good Wine Good Food

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Filipino foods are rich in condiments and sauces. This explains why rice is important in the meals, and why it is difficult to pair wines with Filipino foods. But Carlo Rossi California Red's smooth feel and light and fruity taste, allow the palate to sense the distinct features of Filipino Cuisine

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in the  
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With Carlo Rossi California Red,  
food and wine become a pleasurable experience.

## 5 elements of taste

TO MARK ITS FIFTH YEAR OF serving exquisite desserts, Bizu patisserie offers "5 Elements of Taste" at its Greenbelt 2 flag-ship branch.

Featuring salty, sweet, sour, spicy and bittersweet dessert pieces, five-plate tasting menu set consists of Crème Brûlée Napoleone with Caramel Sauce and Fleur de Sel; Pavlova with Strawberry, Mango and Blueberry; Spiced Hot Chocolate in Demitasse with Fresh Plump Strawberry; Lemon Mousse with Raspberry Coulis Surprise; and, finally, Bittersweet Molten Chocolate Soufflé Cake with Crème Anglaise.

At P555+ a set, it's made to

share as Bizu's cakes are so rich in flavor and made only with the finest ingredients.

"The tasting menu is perfect when you want to slow down, relax and try something different with friends or with someone special. It's our pleasure to delight everyone with unique in-house desserts every now and then so that our guests will have something new to look forward to at Bizu," said Anabel Tanco, general manager of Bizu.

By bringing out more exciting and innovative dessert selections such as this, Bizu hopes to elevate the dessert dining experience. Call 7572498 or 7574749.

SPICED Hot Chocolate in Demitasse with Fresh Plump Strawberry

LEMON  
Mousse  
with  
Raspberry  
Coulis  
Surprise

CRÈME Brûlée Napoleone with Caramel Sauce and Fleur de Sel

## More than just pastrami on rye

From page C1

rience what Sally in the movie may have been feeling, a generally wonderful experience. Myrna was more clinical when she called it *umami*, the newest taste description that is beyond the traditional sour, salty, sweet and bitter. It fills you with well-being that you would want to eat with your hands rather than use utensils because you want to be in touch with your food and feel the texture as well.

We could not finish our pastrami on rye so we had the rest of it wrapped. It was something to tide me over during the flight from New York to San Francisco, my port of exit.

American domestic flights, just like ours, do not serve food anymore even if the flight takes five hours.

### Different

My Katz's pastrami did not taste as good, eaten standing at a counter at an airport café. It tasted like it was way past its prime, the bread soggy even after it had been in the toaster oven.

Myrna said she once took out a slab of pastrami and cut it later at home but it was not as good.

I suppose place has something to do with it. The ambience starts when you enter. A man hands out a ticket to everyone who walks in with a warning not to lose it. He does not tell you what will happen if you do but the warning is

somehow enough.

The ticket is where the counterman places the price of your order, whether sandwich or drinks. It is then submitted to the cashier as you leave.

In this huge place with a high ceiling, the countermen are on one side and on the other is a wall with pictures of persons you do not know and some you do because they are television or movie people.

If you sit near those photographs, you will be attended to by a waiter who looks as if he has worked there for the past 70 years, slow but efficient.

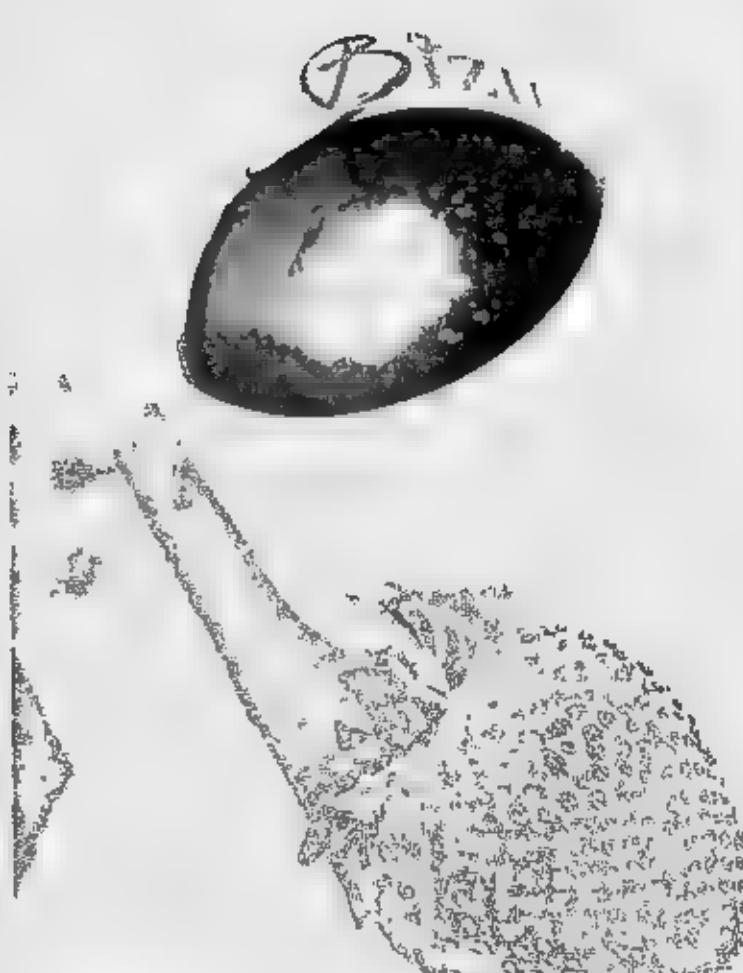
In Manila, a comparable place where people have been going for so many years and enjoying the same kind of food would be Aristocrat's, Ma Mon Luk and Swiss Inn.

We could not sit at the table of Harry and Sally because the couple occupying it was relishing being there. They were enjoying their pastrami on rye, their conversation and each other, just like we were.

You could see from the smiles of the other diners that they were enjoying their experience at Katz's Delicatessen. Perhaps an item on the menu can be used to describe the feeling.

The New York Egg Cream (chocolate or vanilla syrup, milk and a "spritz" seltzer) is also called "Heaven on Earth."

E-mail the author at [pinoys04@yahoo.com](mailto:pinoys04@yahoo.com)



**Good Wine Good Food**

with

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CALIFORNIA RED

Filipino foods are rich in condiments and sauces. This explains why rice is important in the meals, and why it is difficult to pair wines with Filipino foods. But Carlo Rossi California Red's smooth feel and light and fruity taste, allow the palate to sense the distinct features of Filipino Cuisine

No. 1 Imported wine in the Philippines

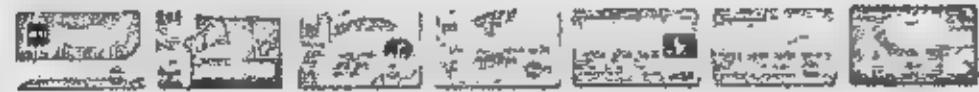
With Carlo Rossi California Red, food and wine become a pleasurable experience.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4640 Series of 2007

We find ways



## LIFESTYLE

## Spine-tingling, trick-or-treating . . .

From page D1

ter's Lab," too). The Zombie's Wake-Up Drink, Love Poison and Dracula's Smoothie are served in a colorful setup of test-tubes racks, beakers and flasks.

And, of course, there are the yummy desserts. The Spider Cotton Candy could very well be cobwebs and the Spider Cheesecake will make you forget you hate those eight-legged insects; while the Bloody Chocolate Fountain, Bloody Jelly and Bleeding Doughnuts make for a serious sugar high.

And if you like your dessert semi-sweet, the White and Dark Chocolate Truffle Bones Cakes, Skeleton Pumpkin Pie and Bat Wings Cookies are a perfect match to your coffee.

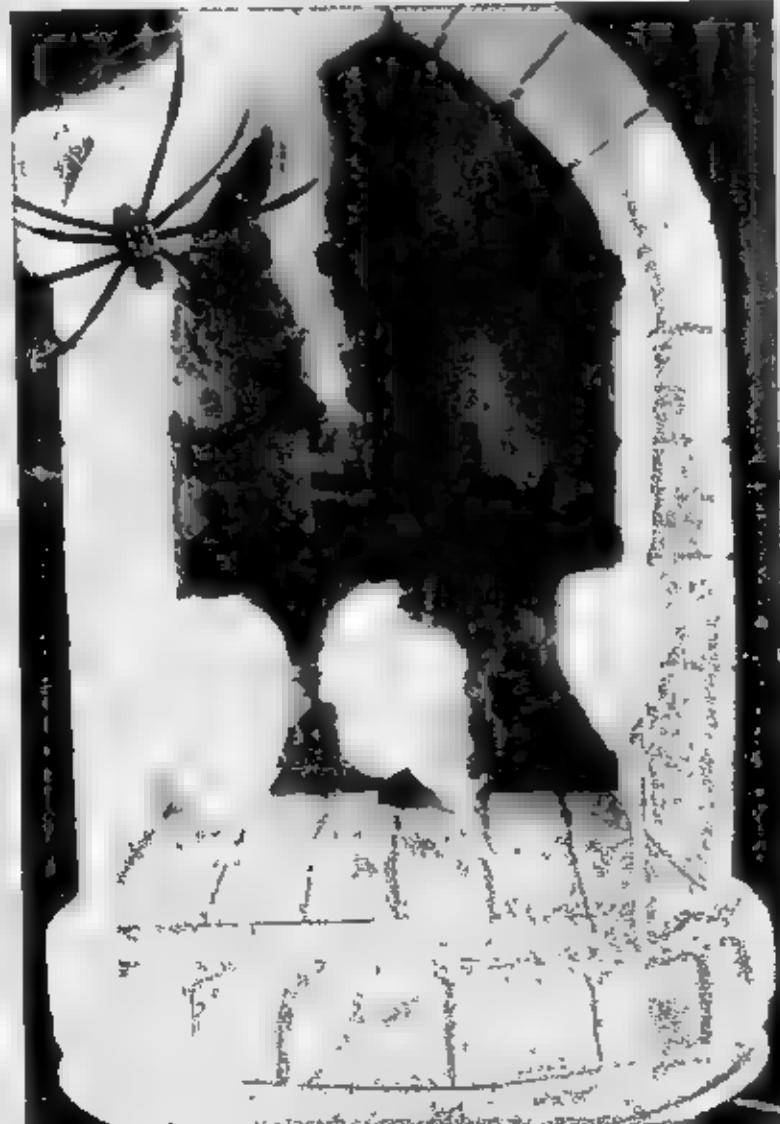
## Pumpkin carving

Expected crowd favorite is the Dress Up Your Pumpkin contest. While bigger kids can carve their own, the smaller ones may be assisted by Sofitel staff members.

Make Harry Potter proud and take the Haunted Walk that challenges kids to collect their loot, like packs of cereals, scoops of Magnolia ice cream and bags of chocolate candies from hidden "traps."

Besides the obligatory costume contest, other spooktacular activities to look forward to include face-painting sessions, magician and mascot performances, an arts-and-crafts exhibit by Merlin and Lyra, a Choco-Nut adventure relay, a scary storytelling session by Alitaptap Storytellers, and a fashion show featuring Sam Laurel creations.

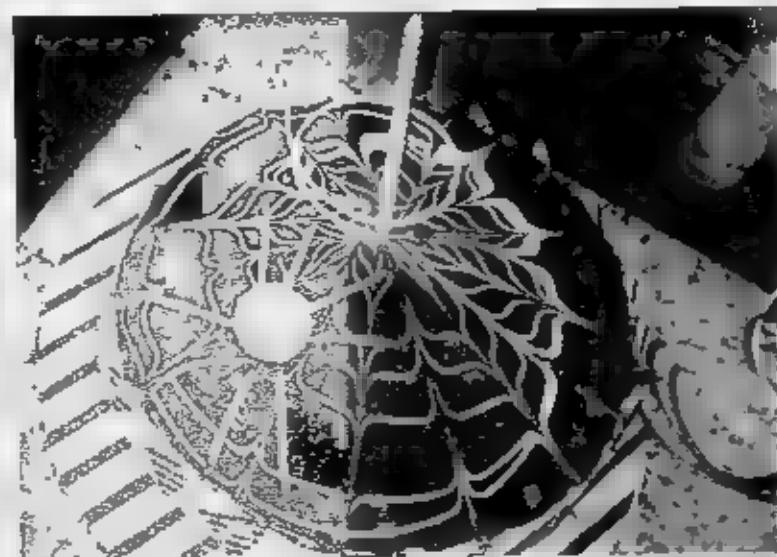
To participate in the events, avail of Sofitel's So Amazing Rooms Promo. Until Oct. 31, every guest room booked comes with two free tickets for kids that serve as day passes. Those staying for two nights can get a second room at 50-percent off. Kids who avail of the Oct. 28 Sunday Brunch or Oct. 31 Halloween dinner get tickets to the Spook-



SCARED of spiders? These cotton-candy cobwebs might just shoot off your fears.



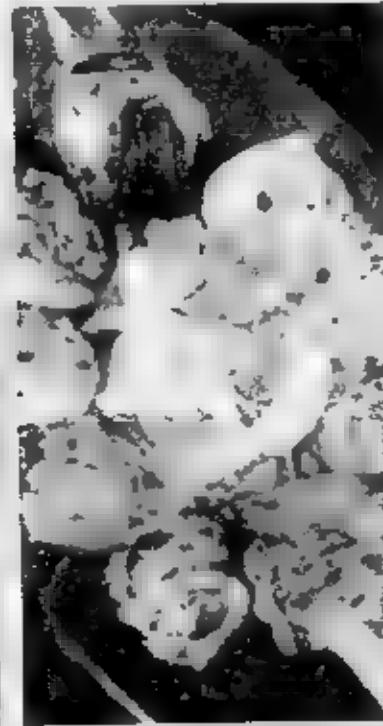
BEET Cured Salmon Fillet



SPIDER Cheesecake

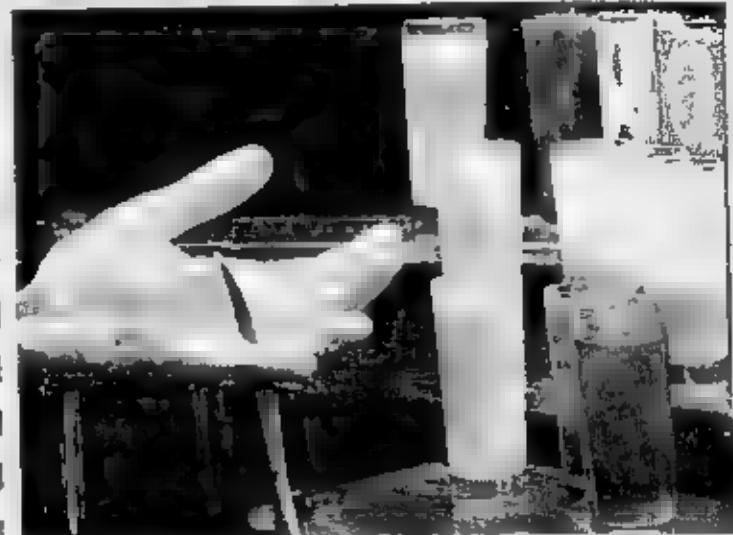
tacular activities. Children 6 years old and below eat for free if their parents dine at Spiral, but have to purchase a day pass at the Kid's Club (P500) to join the contest.

Call 8326993, e-mail room reservations@sofitelmanila.com; for Spiral, call 8326988 or e-mail fbspiral@sofitelmanila.com.



RED Marinated Tandoori Items

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN TRICK-OR-TREATING AT home, here are the recipes for some of "Dr. Frankenstein's spine-tingling concoctions" courtesy of Sofitel Hotel.

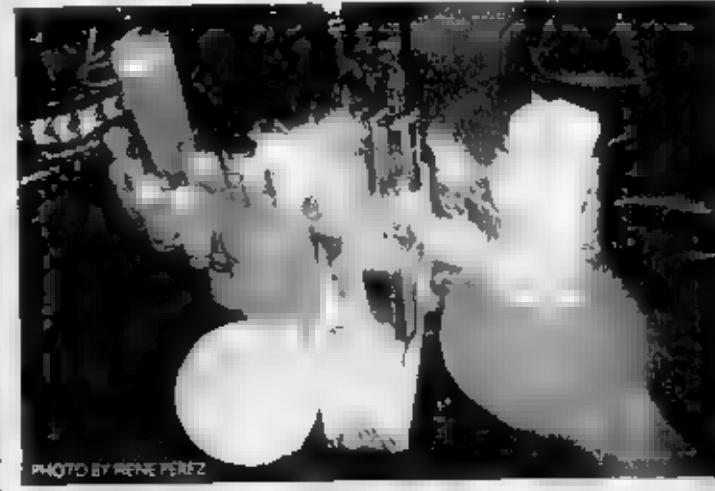


## Zombie's Wake-Up Drink

2 kiwis  
2 green apple (cut into 4, seeds removed)  
½ banana  
50 cl aloe vera juice  
50 cl water  
Crushed ice

## Love Poison

50 cl orange juice  
50 cl pineapple juice  
10 cl grenadine syrup (adjust for desired color)  
Crushed ice



## Dracula's Smoothie

64 oz cranberries  
4 cups of apple juice  
4 cups of vanilla ice cream  
Crushed ice  
For all drinks, put ingredients in the blender and blend until smooth.

## Bewitching Halloween recipes

IT'S MORE SCRUMPTIOUS THAN sorcery, more potent than potions and definitely more delightful than divination. Hershey's will put you and your loved ones under a luscious chocolate spell.

Cook up some magic in the kitchen this Halloween with these enchanted Hershey's recipes. Once your loved ones get a taste of these bewitching treats, they'll happily do your bidding.

## Witches' Hat Chocolate Cupcakes

½ c (1½ sticks) butter or margarine, softened  
1-2/3 c sugar  
3 eggs  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
2 c all-purpose flour  
2/3 c Hershey's Cocoa  
1½ tsp baking soda  
1 tsp salt  
½ tsp baking powder  
1 1/3 c water  
Orange cream filling (recipe below)

Heat oven to 350°F. Line muffin cups (2½ inches in diameter) with paper bake cups.

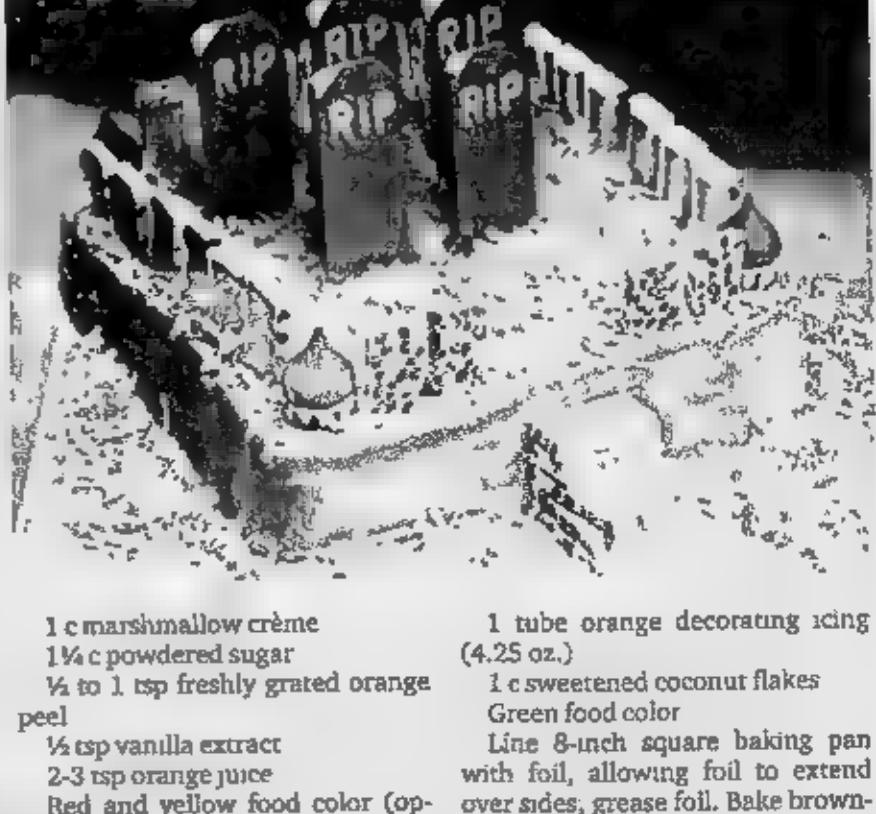
Beat butter, sugar, eggs and vanilla in a large bowl on high-speed mixer for three minutes. Stir together flour, cocoa, baking soda, salt and baking powder; add alternately water to butter mixture, beating just until blended. Fill muffin cups 2/3 full with batter.

Bake for 20-25 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from pan and transfer to wire rack. Cool completely.

Prepare orange cream filling. Cut 1½-inch cone-shaped piece from center of each cupcake; reserve. Fill the cavity created with a spoonful of orange cream filling. Put the cone-shaped pieces over the filling, pointy side up. Refrigerate before serving. Makes 2½ dozen cupcakes.

Orange Cream Filling:  
½ c (1 stick) butter or margarine, softened

## CEMETERY cake



1 c marshmallow creme  
1½ c powdered sugar  
½ to 1 tsp freshly grated orange peel  
½ tsp vanilla extract  
2-3 tsp orange juice  
Red and yellow food color (optional)

Beat butter in small bowl; gradually beat in marshmallow creme. Add powdered sugar, orange peel and vanilla, beating until blended.

Gradually add orange juice (and food color, if desired), beating to desired consistency.

Makes about 1 1/3 cups

## Hershey's Brownie Cemetery Cake

1 pack brownie mix (about 19 oz)

1 can vanilla ready-to-spread frosting (16 oz)

1 tsp Hershey's Cocoa

4 Hershey's Cookies 'n' Crème

4 Hershey's Kisses Brand Milk Chocolates

5 Hershey's Cookies 'n' Crème Bars, divided (1.55 oz each)

5 Hershey's N More Chocolate Bars (snack size)

1 tube orange decorating icing (4.25 oz)

1 c sweetened coconut flakes

Green food color

Line 8-inch square baking pan with foil, allowing foil to extend over sides, grease foil. Bake brownie according to directions on package then cool.

Invert brownie onto large tray; remove foil. Stir frosting and cocoa in small bowl until well blended. Frost sides and top of brownie.

Press unwrapped Hershey's Cookies 'n' Crème Kisses upside down in all 4 corners of brownie. Place Hershey's Kisses Milk Chocolate on top of each Hershey's Cookies 'n' Crème Kisses. Unwrap 2 Hershey's Cookies 'n' Crème bars; break into 12 pieces. Press each upright piece around the outside of the brownie to resemble a fence.

Unwrap Hershey's N More bars. Hold each bar upright and cut the top on one end at an angle to resemble a tombstone. Pipe letters "RIP" with orange icing on flat side of each bar.

Combine coconut, ½ tsp water and a few drops green food color in small bowl. Toss with fork until evenly tinted. Spread over the top of the brownie. Press tombstones into the brownie.

Unwrap remaining Hershey's Cookies 'n' Crème bars; break and arrange around base of brownie to make a path and steps to cemetery.



## Ghoulish stuff for trick or treating

SM'S SNACK EXCHANGE HAS A SWEET and enchanting treat for kids of all ages this Halloween. Glow-in-the-dark Pumpkin Loot Bags are filled with assorted chew candies in strawberry, apple, and other fruit flavors. A Sambo Halloween Hat comes with chocolate-filled bonbons.

Kids can also get ghost-shaped marshmallow treats, Trolli Gummy candies in Dracula teeth and lip shapes, Puffy Hal-

low Mallows, Trick or Treat Lollipops in spiral and twirly shapes.

Also available are Gandour's chocolate bars and the skull shaped Mentos Halloween Treat Box filled with flavored chew candies, Fruittella Crazy, and Chupa Chups lollipops with creepy masks.

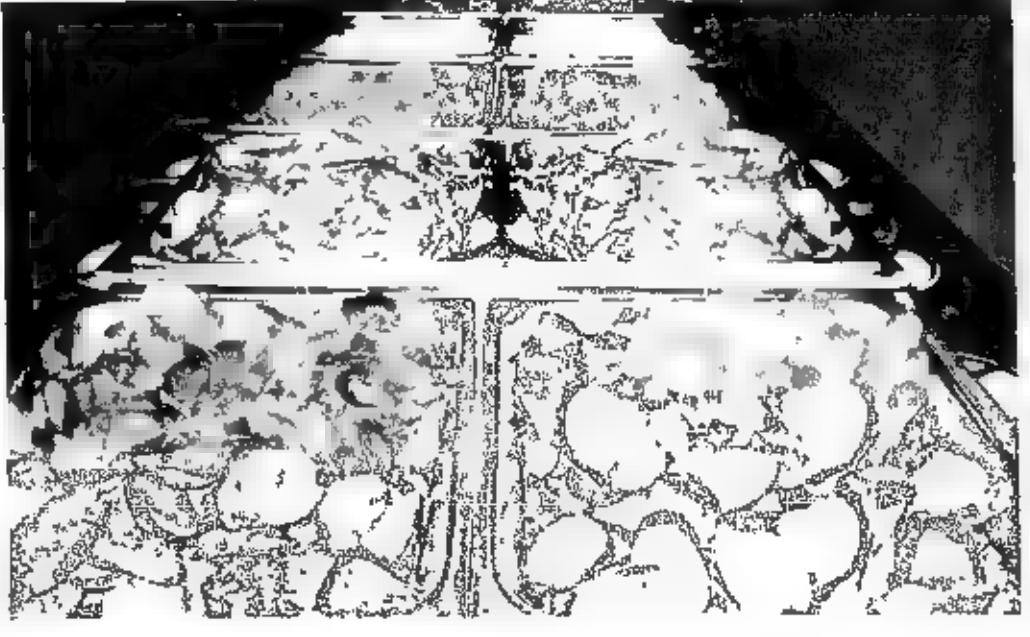
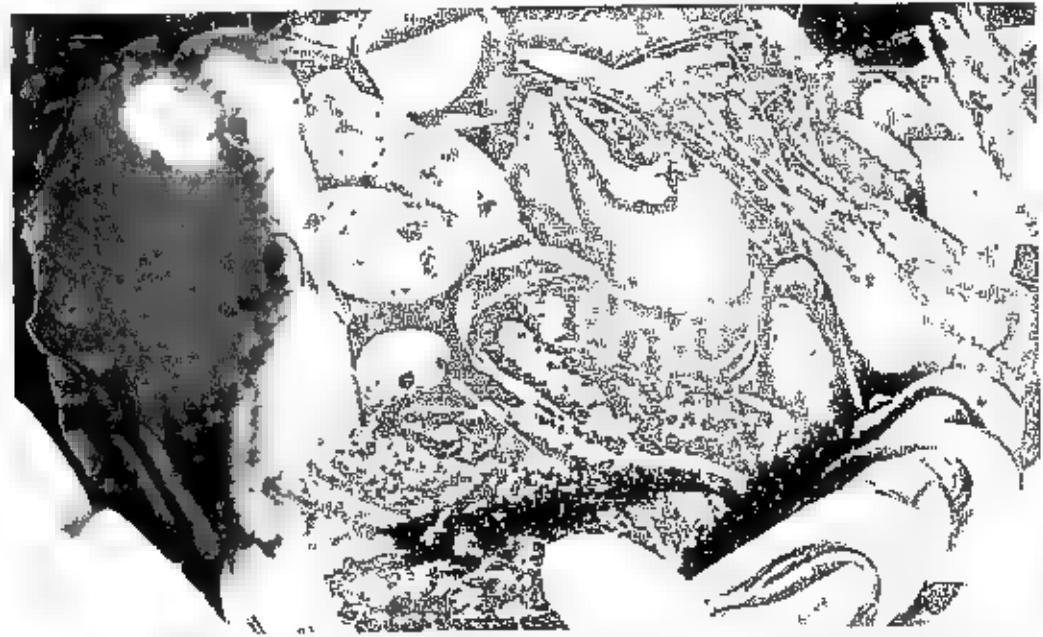
Check out the Snack Exchange Department at all SM stores for the perfect treat for kids this Halloween.

## Spooktacular doughnuts

CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN AT Krispy Kreme with four "spooktacular" doughnuts: Mr. Pumpkin Head, orange-colored vanilla-iced doughnut; Boo! Berry, vanilla-iced, strawberry-filled doughnut; Creepy Crawly Web, chocolate-dipped doughnut with a candy-shaped spider on a vanilla web; and Halloween Sprinkles, orange-colored vanilla-iced doughnut with brown and white sprinkles, available starting Oct. 25. On Oct. 31, join the Boo Bash in Bonifacio High Street, SM Megamall, Greenhills (first drive through store) and the TriNoma branch. The first 200 kids that come in Halloween costumes get free goodie bags.







**CLAWDADDY** Crabhouse and American Grill opens at Bonifacio High Street, Global City. It offers a seafood feast of crabs, lobsters, freshwater prawns, New Zealand mussels, clams. Other favorites include the Cajun Seafood Basket and Clawdaddy's Baby Back Ribs. A must-try is the Skillet Sensations. Call 6365679.

#### BREAKFAST BUFFET

**Somethin' Fishy** features buffet breakfast for only P89, from 12 midnight-10 a.m. (the following day), Monday-Sunday. Enjoy all-you-can-eat beef tapa, tocino, longganisa, dinuguan, bangus, pork adobo, cheesedog, chicken adobo, beef mami, palitaw, palabok, pancake, scrambled eggs, garlic rice, plain rice and arroz caldo. Call 4216412 or text 0917-8EW CITY.

## Halloween specials for all ages

*Ganadong-ganado kumain?*

**Goldilocks BAKESHOP • FOODSHOP**

**Jumbo Combo**

**new**

**Pork Barbecue**

**Rellenong Bangus**

**Beef Morcon**

**Breaded Pork Chop**

**Chicken Barbecue**

**Pinoy-Style Fried Chicken**

**Chicken Honey**

**Inihaw na Liempo**

**Ube roll**

**Mocha roll**

Meals served with **Coca-Cola** and your choice of cake roll.

**MAKATI SHANGRI-LA PRESENTS MONSTERRIFIC HALLOWEEN** on Oct. 28 at the Royal Ballroom. Adults pay P1,288 and kids, P888. Call 8400884 or 8138888 local 7588/7599.

**BUSIT Hotel Nikko** presents "Halloween Classics," Oct. 27 at Fiesta San Miguel. Diners who partake of the kiddie lunch buffet on Oct. 27 at Fiesta San Miguel gain access to the House of Horror. The lunch buffet is priced at P400. Call 8673333.

**BURGOO** makes Halloween special for kids. On Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, all kids in Halloween costumes who dine at any Burgo outlet will get special loot bags with chocolates, toys and candies. Every order (any dish) by an adult lets a kid eat for free.

**GUMBO** offers special Halloween treats. On Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, kids in Halloween costumes automatically get special gift bags. And for every order of adult meal, kids get a free kiddie meal.

**THE RENAISSANCE** Makati City Hotel offers a smorgasbord Sunday brunch special, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. The buffet is priced at P850 (adult) and P425 (kids 12 years old and below). It includes international and Asian favorites. Call 8116888.

**HYATT Hotel and Casino's** The Fireplace offers classic "game" favorites. Game is the meat from any wild animal like deer and hare. Classic dishes include Venison Fillet with Fricassee of Mushroom and Asparagus, Venison in Red Currant Sauce, Wild Hare Fillet with Forest Mushroom Rotto, Pink Roasted Roe Deer Steak with Red Wine Braised Red Cabbage, and Napkin Dumpling in Port Wine Honey Sauce. Call 2451234.

**HYATT Hotel and Casino's** The Pastry Boutique features chef Johann Dreher's version of Austria's classic dessert, the Sacher Cake. Call 2451234.

**MANILA PAVILION'S** Patisserie features German goodies this month. Available is the Schwarzwälder Kirsch Torte, one of Germany's most loved cakes. It's a version of the Black Forest Cherry Cake. Hänsel und Gretel cakes and cookies are also available until Oct. 21. Call 5261212 local 2326.

**BALI BLENDS**, a restaurant and coffee shop offering authentic Indonesian fare, has opened at Westgate Filinvest, Alabang. Next to it is Rumah Makan that specializes in Indonesian soto (soup) and satay (skewered meats and seafood). They also sell Indonesian sauces, tea, coffee and shrimp crackers. Call 8503514.

**SPLENDIDO TAAL** at Tagaytay Ridge Road, Laurel, Batangas is celebrating Oktoberfest until Oct. 28. A special à la carte menu for lunch and dinner features dishes by Jaka director for culinary services Eduardo Quimson and executive sous chef Tristan Bayani. Call 0920-9471840.

#### Spirits gather at Reunion Square

HALLOWEEN IS A 2000-YEAR-OLD tradition that dates back to the Gaelic Festival Samhain, celebrated by the ancient Celts to mark the end of the harvest season.

On this day, Oct. 31, the boundaries between the dead and the living were supposed to overlap, allowing the nonliving to cause sickness and damage to crops.

Now marked as Halloween, the day features costumes, trick or treat, games and scary decor.

On Oct. 26, Reunion Square at the Remedios Circle in Malate, Manila, calls on all who would be spirits and challenges them to don the scariest costumes for another memorable and exciting Halloween ball. Prizes await the spooky creatures that enter its doors. Call 5216682.

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## LIFESTYLE

## Reggie's phone book II

Park Avenue Desserts—	8346636
Mango Napoleon/C max	
Mida Foods (wholesale)	5240006
seafood suppliers—	
everything that swims)	
Truffle-stuffed Mochi,	7271229
Mrs. Howard's	4121682
(Sandwich Crabstick	
on Cheesy Onion Bread)	
Indian food order	8192892
Personalized plates/	8330003
Initial/ logo-stamping,	
Maid uniforms	6798837
(home service—Japan)	0919-8493019
Food order (Sushi	6376013
Platters, Omakaze)	
Made-to-order beautiful	7766394
dining tables and	
furniture in wood (Omeng	
Esquerre)	
Gift wrapping/ made-to-	0920-9506025,
order packaging	6367547
(Ruby L. Inap)	
Dessert buffet and banana	0917-5245892
cream pie (Baba ibazeta)	
Cinnamon-flavored	0919-3123530
pancake mix	
Fried milk/pinsec frito	6715942
(San Jacinto)	
Noel Bernardo, best	6332433
restaurant designer	
Nice baby clothes	8964802
(overalls)	
Photo books (your picture	0917-8110393
album in book, Paolo)	
Children's party packages	0917-8437377
and best party host	
(Peps Averilla)	
Signage (Paul Yap)	0917-8133220
Best fondant cakes	0917-8122676
(Penk Ching)	
Gelat n, flavorings,	2515302-06
extracts, baking supplies	
(Peter Co)	
All types of kitchen gadgets/	5312810,
food machines (popcorn,	5311990
slush, nachos French fries,	
soft serve ice cream, cotton	
candy), Pescorp	
Cheapest source of	042-5407822
exotic flowers, potted	
bromeliads, otus	
(Insular Botanica)	
Tarta de Madrid	3732789
Quimson's Kitchen	8188077
(Iberian chicken,	
lengua de gato)	
Gooey toffee bars	5251648,
	6717606
Food photographers	
Mark Fiori	0917-5258143
Ernie Rubia	0917-5318309
Home-service	9333522,
pilates (Jasan)	0917-3590888
Giant chicharon, best	0917-7182200,
baked Virginia Ham, boiled	8908391
corned beef (Plaza)	
Flavored popcorn	0922-8791317
Lechon bake by the slab	9265647,
and affordable steaks	0918-9104913
(Vina)	
Fruits, vegetab e, herb and	3713482
flower seeds	
Piglets (suck ng pig)	5249948
Ji's Yummy Pistach o	7217022
Sans Riva	
Acoustic trio (very good,	0920-9137003
old songs), Rox Puno	
The Bloomfields band	0920-9032320
(songs from the '50s	
and '60s)	
Art Manantag (Tony	0920-9209051
Bennett of the Philippines)	
Saxophone (Vince)	0915-6412407
Steak bangus belly	8179497
(wholesale)	
Wholesale Australian	0917-5259887
and Spanish wines, wine	
seminars (Sherwin)	
Wholesale wines	
California, Happy Living	8994699
French, Sommeliers	8404211
Affordable silcone	0917-52565804
baking pans (wholesale)	
Food bottles i shapes	2427458
and sizes (SMC Bottling)	
Yeast, chocolate baking	0920-9080248
products (wholesalers,	
free baking consultation	
and seminars), Sonie	
Del food delivery	4390603
(Sostanza)	
Stainless-steel	0917-8123951
contractors (Ghie)	
Coffee, coffee machines	8684168
and flavored syrups for	
coffee (FO)	
Flavored syrups for	0918-9701766
cocktails (Mon n)	
Flavored taho	0917-8141200
by the bucket	
Delicious taho	5236281
Excellent lumpiang	6330205
hubad with peanut sauce	
Gutter tattoo	0922-8027070
Mama Rosa Catering	0917-5326900
(pako salad, fish roe	
and scallop noodle),	
Pumpkins, ornamental	9289306
gourds, flowers (wholesale)	
Wagyu beef and US meat	6317228-30
(wholesale), Anna	
PTC (wholesale of US	2588831-38
meat, turkey lamb,	
seafood)	2564430

KITCHEN RESCUE  
Reggie Aspiras

TACO ILOCANO WAS BORNE OUT OF

Carlo and Antoinette Ocampo's love for Ilocos empanadas. For them, trips to the north were never complete without visits to the famous plazas for these delicious treats.

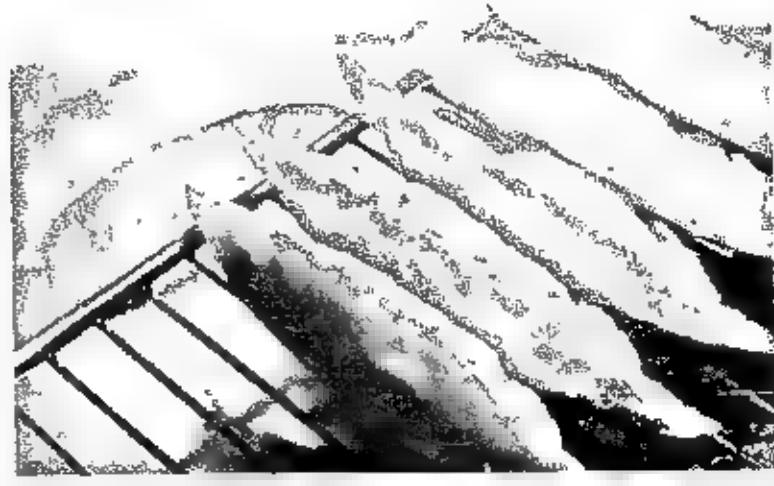
Their top three favorites: Batac, Laoag and Vigan. "We like Batac the most because it has the tastiest longganisa with a strong garlicky punch, Laoag for its color and the actual taste of the crust. Vigan's empanada had a much lighter color and thinner crust

but didn't have longganisa."

After deliberating for so long, the husband-and-wife tandem decided to do their own version fusing the best components—Laoag's crust and Batac's filling.

They wanted authenticity so nothing was spared. They scavenged for the best recipes in the north, perfected them and every week had the ingredients brought to Manila.

REINVENTING/EI



TACO Ilocano's piping-hot Ilocos empanada

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your true  
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BY JESS ABRERA

A diwata novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNELA AVETRIA



A. LIPIN

NAKAKALITO TALAGA PAG MAY TATTOO, TULAD SA BABAENG YAN BAKIT?

NAGDADALAMHATI YAN DAHLI SA NAMATAY NA KAMAGANAK

TATTOO KASI ANG KILAY! GALIT FOREVER!

HU HUHU

PUGAD BABOY

BUKOD SA RELATIONSHIP AT POLITICA E PABORTO RINGS SUBJECT ANG SPORTS SA MGA PARTY

ANG ALAM KONG NAKAKALIT E ANG PIGWE WORKOUT DAHLI TRI KA NANGIRE SUBUKAN MONG UMIRE AT MARARAMDOM MONG NAPISAYA YAN

DO INGA' GYANGSA 'NO' MAGPATABA NA JANG AND KAGAWA MO

BY PM JUNIOR



BABY BLUES



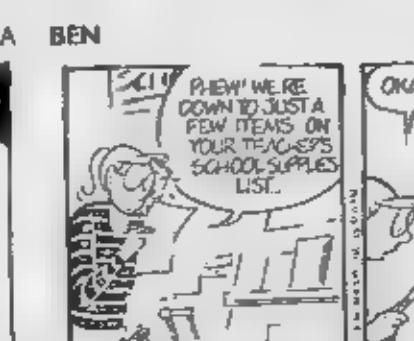
BY JIM DAVIS

LOVEKNOTS



JUST CLIMB THROUGH THE GREEN TUBE TO THE ROPE BRIDGE, THEN CLIMB UP THE ORANGE SLIDE WITH YOU COME TO THE BIG YELLOW GATES

BY JERRY SCOTT



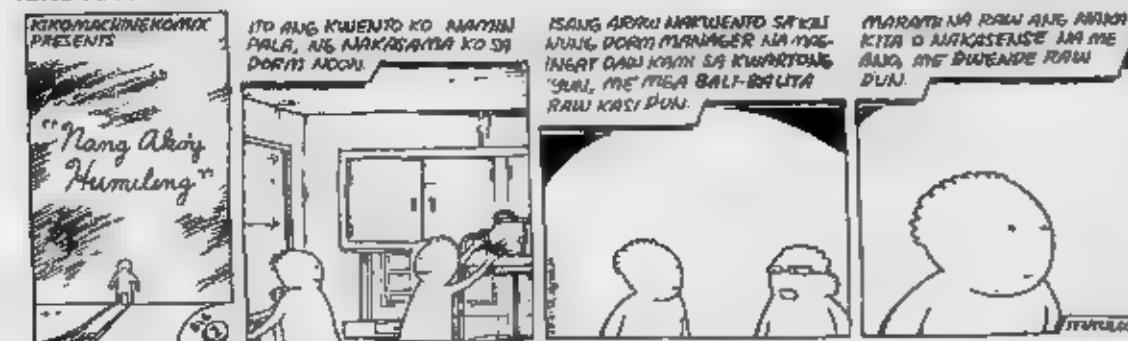
BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBBOY



BY LYRA GARCCELLANO

KIKO MACHINE



BY MANIX ABRERA

BEN



BY DAN EL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

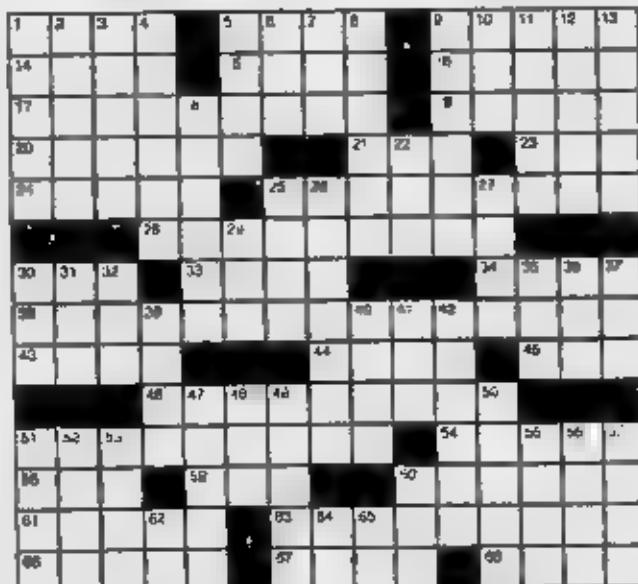
By Dave Green

1	4							3	2
7									9
	5	8							
8		2	5						
6	3							1	
7	1							4	
	9	4							8
6									
3	5							6	4

Difficulty Level ★ ★ ★

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ACROSS  
1 Reagan's Secretary of State  
5 Urgent letters  
9 Painter's base  
14 English composer  
15 "Flesque" composer  
18 Lead to seats  
17 Start of Tom Smothers quip  
19 Home or bed follower  
20 Try hard  
21 NYC subway line  
23 Goddess of folly  
24 "Die Lorelei" poet  
25 Part 2 of quip  
28 Taking all into account  
30 LAX stat  
33 Classify  
34 ...mater  
38 Part 3 of quip  
43 Transition point  
44 Actress  
Menken  
45 Mel of the Giants  
46 Brought to you (by)  
51 Part 4 of quip  
54 Mausoleums  
58 Actor Wallach  
59 Mr. Hope  
60 Dollar bill artist  
61 Kid of early TV  
63 End of quip  
65 "As You Like It" role  
67 Ms. Fitzgerald  
68 Abba of israel  
69 On the qui vive  
70 55%, once  
71 Beauty him  
  
DOWN  
1 Very severe  
2 Craggy crest  
3 Arboreal lichen  
4 Zodiac sign  
5 Winglike parts  
6 Plopped down  
7 Mr. Baba  
8 Presumes



By Michael T. Williams  
Clearwater, FL  
10/25/07

9 Composer Mahler  
10 Approx.  
11 Wheat bundle  
12 Pac. pac.  
13 Arrangement  
18 Nevertheless  
22 Slugger's stat  
25 Workers' rights grp.  
26 Endure longer then  
27 Sweetie  
29 Bovine  
30 Sight organ  
31 Director  
Browning  
32 Calendar abbr.  
35 Delibas or Buscaglia  
36 Came across  
37 Colony critter  
38 Viper collective  
40 Japanese vegetables  
41 Corncock  
42 Presney hit, "In the ..."  
47 Lt. Kennedy's vessel  
48 Now I see!  
49 Collared  
50 Gloomier  
51 Muslim holy city  
52 Architect  
Searman  
53 Market channel  
55 Perhaps  
56 Kind of daylight?  
57 Takes aback  
60 Tunisian port  
62 360-deg. curve  
64 Each and every one  
65 MCII helved

YOU BORN TODAY: You're physical in your approach to life; plus you have a marvelous imagination. You're highly reliable. (But you do like to be in control of things.) Frequently, you find yourself in situations where others depend on you. You like to live life fully and will be glad to know that the year ahead could be one of the best years of your life.

Birthday: et; Marion Ross, actress; James Carville, political commentator; Pablo Picasso, painter, sculptor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Unexpected news about alternative health remedies might interest you. Otto: Your job routine definitely will be interrupted.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Love at first sight could take place today. Surprise fluctuations definitely will give you a lift. Parents should be extra vigilant about children. (This could be an accident-prone day for them.)

TAURUS (May 21 to June 20): Surprise company might drop by at home today. (Stock the fridge.) Alternatively, expected company might be a no-show. (Go figure.) Something will disrupt your domestic expectations.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're keen for adventure and excitement today! Perhaps this is why you'll meet new faces or go to new places? Today, anything can happen!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Be watchful about your money and your possessions. You might find money; you might lose money. Whatever happens, it will be very quick, and you will have to act fast!

VEGAS (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're in the mood for something different to happen. You're up for adventure. Close friends and partners could surprise you. (At least that's interesting.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're restless! It's the Full Moon today, and in addition to this, retrograde Mercury is in your sign. (Whew!) Just go with the flow and be flexible with changes as they occur.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might meet a new friend today. Perhaps someone you already know will surprise you in some way. It's very tough to predict what others will do today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Some of you might develop a crush on your boss today. Others will be surprised by their boss! Either way, this is not a boring day, especially with the authority figures in your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Unexpected opportunities to travel or get further training or education will be brief, therefore, act quickly!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Surprise gifts and goodies can come your way today. Keep your pockets open and your eyes peeled. Be prepared to respond, because you won't have time for second thoughts.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Someone close to you probably will surprise you in some fashion today. Similarly, you might meet a serious new love. Hmmm.

LIBRA

SCORPIO

SAGITTARIUS

CAPRICORN

AQUARIUS

PISCES

TAURUS

CANCER

LEO

VIRGO

SAGITTARIUS

## Asian restos fight hunger

**PIZZA HUT AND TACO BELL**  
Philippines, members of Yum! Asia, have teamed up with restaurants all across Asia in a campaign to ease hunger among 800 million people around the world.

Yum! Asia is teaming up with the United Nations' World Food Program (WFP), the world's leading humanitarian hunger-relief organization in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam to raise awareness of the problem and to raise funds.

According to WFP statistics, some 800 million people worldwide, mainly women and children, are hungry and malnourished. It takes only P8 to feed a child each day.

Activities include fun runs and walkathons in Singapore and Indonesia aimed at Yum!



PIZZA HUT Cheesy Pops Pizza

Asia employees.

In restaurants across the region, posters, donation boxes, tray liners and donation icons

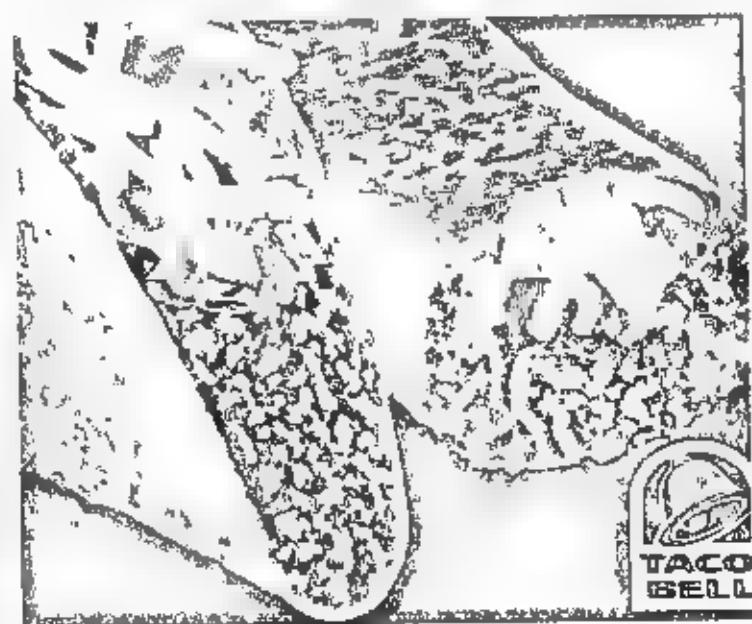
will be used to increase awareness of hunger and call people to action.

The two-week campaign in the Philippines will consist of charity programs for the benefit of malnourished children in Barangay Pili, Bicol Focus will be on rehabilitating preschoolers.

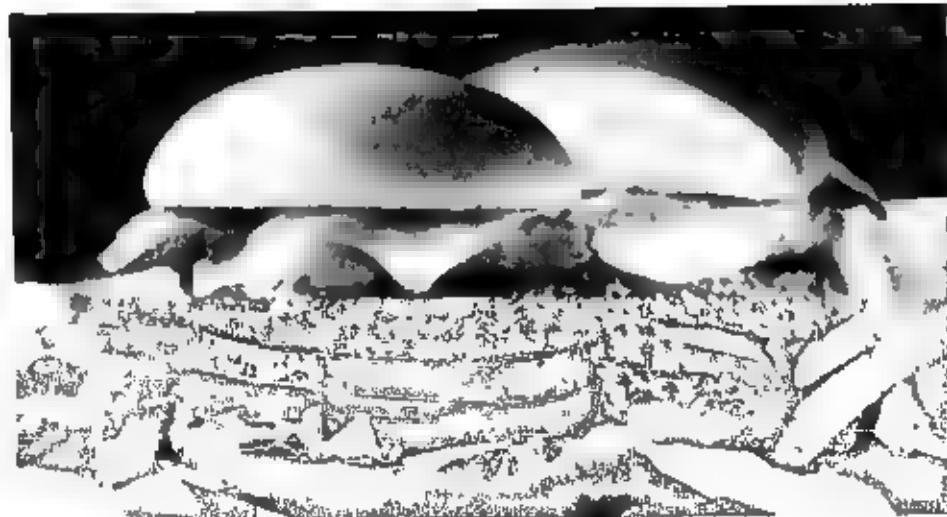
The project is in collaboration with Kds Foundation, a charitable institution headed by Pizza Hut's endorser, Dether Ocampo.

Every P25 peso donation at any Pizza Hut restaurant entitles donors to a "Fight World Hunger" pin. Donations are also accepted at Taco Bell branches at Gateway Mall, SM Southmall, Trinoma and E. Rodriguez.

Visit [www.pizzahut.com.ph](http://www.pizzahut.com.ph) or [www.tacobell.com.ph](http://www.tacobell.com.ph).



TACO BELL



CHEESY Bacon Cheeseburger

## Not one, not two but 27 new dishes on the menu

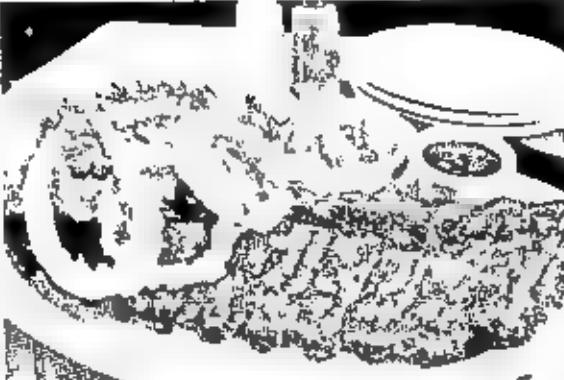
**FUN, HIP AND CASUAL-DINING RESTAURANT**  
TGI Friday's is this month rolling out 27 lip-smacking dishes drawn from an international menu-enhancement program the company is putting in place worldwide.

On the new menu is Flaming Beef Kabobs, lean cuts of steak char-grilled just right so every juicy bite melts in your mouth and served on a bed of wild coconut rice and fresh mango-chili salsa for dipping.

The Sizzling Chicken & Shrimp, sauteed chicken breast with onions, peppers and zesty shrimp in a Roma tomato basil salsa, is served over sizzling Colby and Monterey Jack cheeses



FLAMING Beef Kabobs



JACK Daniel's Glazed Ribs & Shrimp

with a side of cheddar-cheese mashed potatoes.

The Chicken Club Sandwich consists of layers of ham, char-grilled chicken breast, American cheese and crisp bacon piled double high between three slices of honey wheat bread with fresh lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise.

TGI Friday's is now serving these three plus 24 other new dishes at all TGI Friday's restaurants located at Ayabang Town Center, Glorietta 3, Tomas Morato, Robinson's Manila, Robinson's Galleria, Bonifacio High Street, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and soon at Trinoma.



PARTICIPANTS at the CCA course will learn theories and methods in cooking and baking.

## Turn a hobby into a business

**COOKING ENTHUSIASTS** can turn their passion into an income-generating venture with the help of the Center for Culinary Arts, Manila (CCA, Manila).

The leading culinary school offers "Shop, Cook/Bake and Earn," a two-day course that incorporates entrepreneurship. It will be offered at CCA, Manila's satellite school on the second floor of Farmers Market in Araneta Center, Quezon City.

The program will teach participants the theories and methods in cooking/baking, and how to start a business.

Students will learn purchasing, measuring and costing of ingredients. The second

day will focus on actual production, packaging, pricing, and shelf life and its monitoring.

Students will learn how to prepare, mix, bake and package the items properly, calculate the selling price, and understand the concept of staining and the use of food preservatives.

The school's location inside a market where all the necessary ingredients are purchased is considered as one of its advantages.

The faculty team consists of chef instructors who are experts in baking. Call 4376058 or 4377456; e-mail [marketing@cca-manila.com](mailto:marketing@cca-manila.com) or visit [www.cca-manila.com](http://www.cca-manila.com).

## Reinventing . . .

From page E1

Still dissatisfied, the Ocampos decided to "import" some of the best empanada makers to churn out these delicious neon-orange crunchies.

So did they come up with the real McCoy? "Wen apo!" says Carlo's uncle Bongbong and aunt Imee.

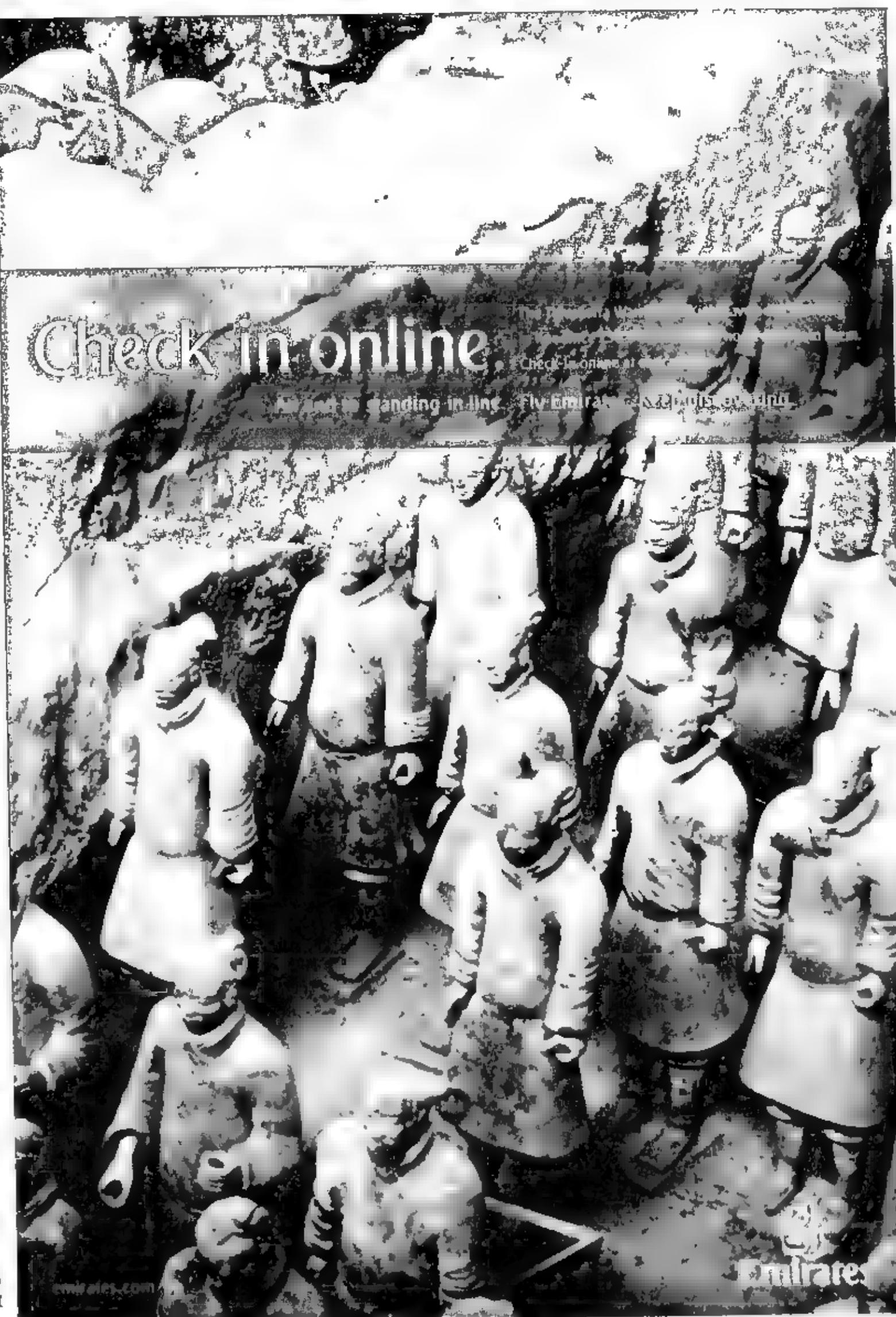
Both swear it is the real deal as they held on to their empanadas on that fun-filled day when we three Ilocanos came together to experiment on our most beloved gulay recipes.

I must say I agree! Yummy! To their repertoire, the Ocampos added new variants like the Mexican, Argentine and Sweet N Spicy.

"They are all still longganisa-based but the Mexican has cheese, onions and tomato sauce; Argentine has special spices; and Sweet N Spicy, well, speaks for itself."

Toro Ilocano is at Market! Market! and Glorietta 4. Call 0917-5355302 for catering.

E-mail the author at [raspiras@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:raspiras@inquirer.com.ph)



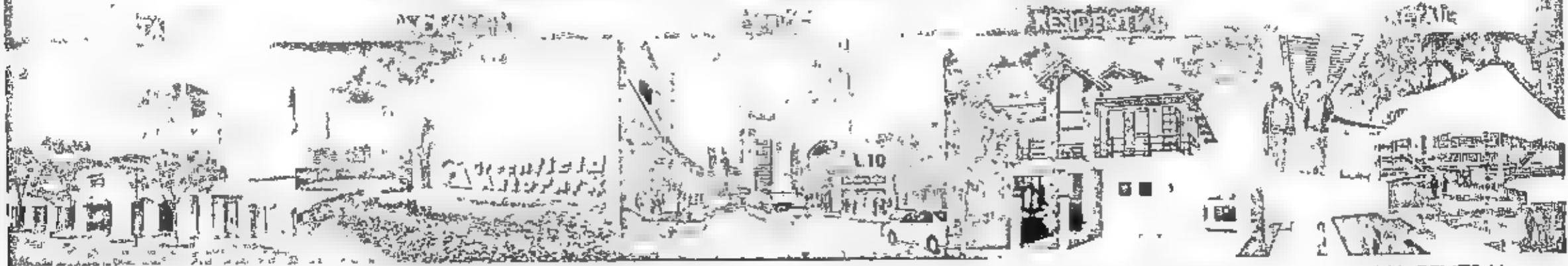
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The Future is Green at the country's new GROWTH center.

# GREENFIELD CITY

Greenfield City will be a place blessed with natural beauty and a place where people can live, work and play. It will be a place where people can live in harmony with nature. It will be a place where people can live in harmony with each other. It will be a place where people can live in harmony with the environment. It will be a place where people can live in harmony with the future.

## GREENFIELD CITY SIGNATURE PROJECTS:



**PASEO DE SANTA ROSA**  
Enjoy the best shopping, dining and entertainment in a sprawling retail hub.

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**SANTA ROSA BUSINESS PARK**  
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**PRAMANA RESIDENTIAL PARK**  
The country's first residential park with more than half of its wide open spaces devoted to tree-lined roads, pocket parks and greenery.

**LAGUNA CENTRAL**  
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**GREENFIELD CITY**

Disclaimer: Written and visual material herein, although based on present plans may not reflect the most current development hence may be subject to change without prior notice.



## ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Website: [www.inquirer.net/entertainment](http://www.inquirer.net/entertainment)SMS feedback: inquire ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at [entertainment@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:entertainment@inquirer.com.ph)

## Still not in the clear

By Marinel R. Cruz

**N**OW THAT THE CONTROVERSY concerning her career moves has ebbed, Angel Locsin felt there was need to clear the air as she faced the entertainment press last week.

The actress arrived at the dining hall of ABS-CBN on Friday night, along with her talent manager Becky Aguila and Aguila's lawyer Jop Alonso.

Angel asked the writers to "help me make people understand, to finally put an end to the issue."

"What I'm going through is not easy. I'm only 22, pero lumalaban po ako," a teary-eyed Angel added. "I hope to have the chance to talk to them. Pero ako ang unang lalapit. I will talk with them in private."

She was referring to her former bosses in GMA 7, senior vice president for entertainment Wilma Galvante and Artist Center head Ida Henares, who publicly expressed their disappointment over Angel's decision to transfer to rival channel ABS-CBN.

"You have no idea how I feel. It pains me to know that they are hurting. I treated them like my own parents," Angel said. "I'm just waiting for the right time to sit down

with them. I don't want them to think that I'm using them for publicity purposes."

On Aug. 11, Angel signed a two-year exclusive contract with the Kapamilya network. She is being teamed up with Piolo Pascual and would soon be seen in the TV series titled "Lobo."

Do you still have "live" contracts with GMA?

Yes. The network still gets a share of the talkies.

STILL/F3



ANGEL LOCSIN meets the press last week and begs for help "to make people understand." But she seems to be having trouble making even her own manager see whatever it is she wants to put across.

ROMY HOHILLADA



## Rhian plays a Mega role

She is paired with Mark Herras in 'My Only Love' remake

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

RHIAN RAMOS IS SUPPOSED TO BE taking a break from show biz.

But she found herself accepting a major—make that mega—role in a new afternoon soap on GMA 7.

The 16-year-old Rhuan is the new partner of Mark Herras in the remake of "My Only Love," the 1982 Sharon Cuneta-Gabby Concepcion starrer, according to GMA Artist Center.

The series, which started taping on

RHIAN/F4



**Globe**

Kahit loaded for the day,  
mabilis ka pa ring  
makakatulong sa kids mo.

## WEEKEND BOX OFFICE

Top 10 movies at the North American box office for the week ending October 19.



TW L/W Title	Total gross WR
1 ⚪ 30 Days of Night	\$16.0 min 1
2 1 Why Did I Get Married?	\$12.1 min 2
3 2 The Game Plan	\$8.1 min 4
4 4 Michael Clayton	\$7.1 min 3
5 ⚪ Gone Baby Gone	\$6.0 min 1
6 ⚪ The Comebacks	\$5.9 min 1
7 3 We Own the Night	\$5.6 min 2
8 ⚪ The Nightmare Before Christmas 3-D	\$5.1 min 1
9 ⚪ Rendition	\$4.2 min 1
10 5 The Heartbreak Kid	\$3.9 min 3

TW This week ⚪ New release  
LW Last week ⚪ New release  
Based on studio estimates compiled on Sunday

**TM**  
REUTERS

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## ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE



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### GALLERIA

1 STARDUST - THX	8 HIGHLANDER MR. WOODCOCK
2 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL	7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
3 MANILA PRIDE FEST	8 KNOCKED UP
4 UNREST	9 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
5 RENDITION	10 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

### HERMIT

1 RENDITION	5 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
2 KNOCKED UP	6 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
3 UNREST	7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	8 KNOCKED UP

Come and Celebrate!

## MANILA PRIDE FEST

INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER FILM FESTIVAL 2007

October 24 to 30

Robinsons Movieworld

### Opening Films

1 KNOCKED UP	5 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising	6 MR. WOODCOCK HIGHLANDER
3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	7 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 UNREST	8 RENDITION

### NOVALICHES

1 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL	3 KNOCKED UP
2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising	4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT

### PIONEER

1 RENDITION	3 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
2 UNREST	4 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising

### STARROS

1 NO RESERVATIONS	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising	2 KNOCKED UP
3 SHOOT 'EM UP	3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	4 DECEMBER BOYS

### DASMARINAS

1 NO RESERVATIONS	1 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING
2 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising	2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	3 HIGHLANDER
4 SHOOT 'EM UP	4 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL

### ANGEL CITY

1 RETRIBUTION	1 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
2 STARDUST	2 THREE
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3	3 KNOCKED UP
4 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	

### STARMILES

1 WEDDING DAZE	4 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 STARDUST	5 RETRIBUTION
3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	6 RESIDENT EVIL 3

### BACOLOD

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3	1 RESIDENT EVIL 3
2 WEDDING DAE	2 RETRIBUTION
3 indieSine: STILL LIFE	3 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
4 STARDUST	4 KNOCKED UP
5 KNOCKED UP	5 DECEMBER BOYS
6 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT	6 NO RESERVATIONS

a film by Katski Flores



watch this only at  
Robinsons Movieworld Bacolod  
OCTOBER 24 to 30

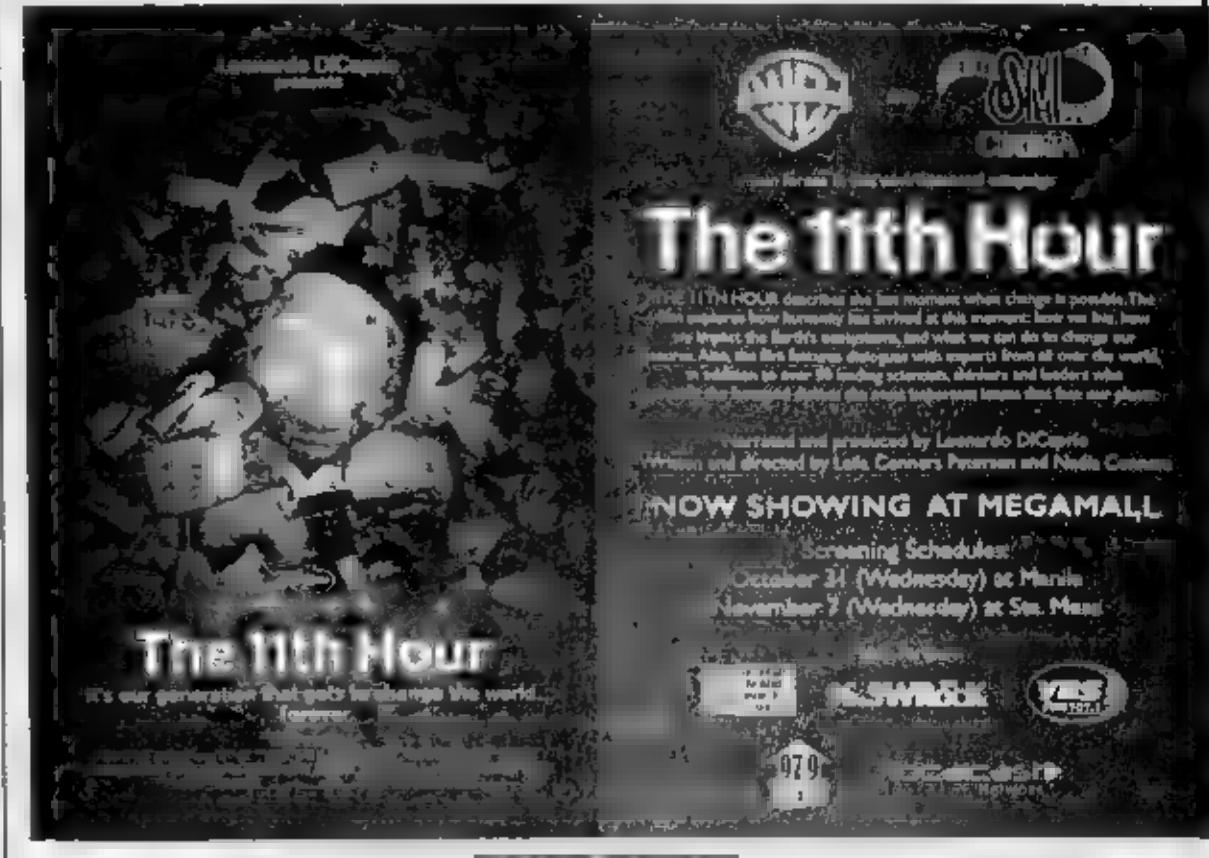


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Screening Schedules

October 31 (Wednesday) at Manila

November 7 (Wednesday) at SM. Malls

SM MALL OF ASIA	558-0104	SM MEGACINEMA	633-1901	SM SMOTHWALL	805-6888
IMAX		BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	11TH HOUR	RENDITION	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
DEEP SEA 3D	Admission Price: P250 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM • 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM T-REX 3D	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	RESIDENT EVIL 3	UNREST	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	Admission Price: P250 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM • 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	MR. WOODCOCK	MR. WOODCOCK	BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
RENDITION		RENDITION	KUNG FU FIGHTER	RESIDENT EVIL 3	RESIDENT EVIL 3
STARDUST		STARDUST	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	STARDUST	STARDUST
THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING		APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	HIGHLANDER V	HIGHLANDER V
RESIDENT EVIL 3		RETRIBUTION	KUNG FU FIGHTER	RETRIBUTION	RETRIBUTION
BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL		UNREST	ROGUE ASSASSIN	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
BUNREST		ROGUE ASSASSIN	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
PREMIERE CINEMA		THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT		RENDITION	KUNG FU FIGHTER	KUNG FU FIGHTER	KUNG FU FIGHTER
CENTERSTAGE		MR. WOODCOCK	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	RETRIBUTION	RETRIBUTION
RESERVED		HIGHLANDER V	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
DIRECTOR'S CLUB		RESIDENT EVIL 3	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	HIGHLANDER V	HIGHLANDER V
Bookings now accepted. Enquiry at 558-2324.		I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU	RETRIBUTION	RETRIBUTION	RETRIBUTION
PODIUM		STARDUST	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
CINEMA 1		THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	KUNG FU FIGHTER	KUNG FU FIGHTER	KUNG FU FIGHTER
RETRIBUTION		APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT			
CINEMA 2		UNREST	ROGUE ASSASSIN	ROGUE ASSASSIN	ROGUE ASSASSIN
BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL		RETRIBUTION	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
RETRIBUTION		UNREST	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
UNREST		RENDITION	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING
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RETRIBUTION		THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING			
RETRIBUTION		THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT	APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT</



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**MOVIE GUIDE**  
NOW SHOWING

SHANE  
CINEPLEX

1400M CINE EUROPA

290M BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL

300M RENDITION

400M STURDUST

PREMIERE

THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

## CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati

Waltermart Center, Glorietta Ave. cor.

Antonio Arnaiz Pd del Pilar, Makati City

Tel 02.6214/616.216

1 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

2 RENDITION

3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

4 UNREST

## st mall

(Mandaluyong) Tel. 7266168

3 HIGHLANDER-V

4 POLYWOOD

5 RENDITION

## metropolis

STAR

www.creativity.com.ph

JALABANG Tel. 8942106, 6632994

1 MR. WOODCOCK

2 HIGHLANDER-V

3 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

4 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

## THEATRES

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER

2 DECEMBER BOYS

3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

## PACIFIC MALL

LUCERA

CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Cineplex Tel. 0442-658-0271

1 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

2 RISE

3 RESERVED

4 RESERVED

## Filinvest

CINEMA 2000

GIMANA

(Bataan) Tel. 045-3571-72

1 RENDITION

2 RESIDENT EVIL

3 UNREST

4 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL

6 KNOCKED UP

7 RESCUER

8 STURDUST

9 NO RESERVATION

10 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

11 KUNG FU FIGHTER

## Blue Wave

MANILA

Santolan Highway cor. Major 6th Avenue, Santolan, Mandaluyong City 1541807

1 BIRDBREAKER: DARK IS RISING

2 KOLPAP DAPAT, DAPAT APAT

3 KUBLI RENDITION

4 QUITI RESERVED

## SUPER CINERAMA

Betacon Cinema Complex Recto

Tel 7334229

1 500M RESERVED

2 RESERVED

3 RESERVED

4 UNREST

5 RENDITION

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1 PLEASE CALL

2 PLEASE CALL

3 PLEASE CALL

4 RESERVED

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT  
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## ED

## Halloween at Eastwood City

October 27, 2007  
1:00 PM  
APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
3 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISINGCenter Mall Cinema  
Baguio Center Mall, MacArthur Avenue  
(Baguio City) Tel 0747-6448346  
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3  
2 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISINGJade Cinema  
(Baguio City) Tel 0957-857-3000 loc 103  
1 RESIDENT EVIL - 3  
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT  
3 STURDUST  
4 RETRIBUTIONCentre Plaza Cinema  
(Bataan, Batangas) Tel 0471-237-7007  
1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME  
2 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APATMTRCB R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE  
NOW SHOWING

## SHOCKING but REAL!

Hundreds of Patients  
Die in Hospitals Everyday...  
Not All Remain DEAD.

MTRCB R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

## NOW SHOWING

WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM...

COULD HAPPEN TO YOU!

Lianas Cinema  
(Pasig) Tel 640-47491 DAY WATCH  
2 PLEASE CALL3 PLEASE CALL  
4 PLEASE CALLLianas Cinema  
(Makati) Tel 850-12761 PLEASE CALL  
2 MASARAP UNANG KAGAT  
3 BATING MAGDLENA  
4 PLEASE CALLLianas Movie City  
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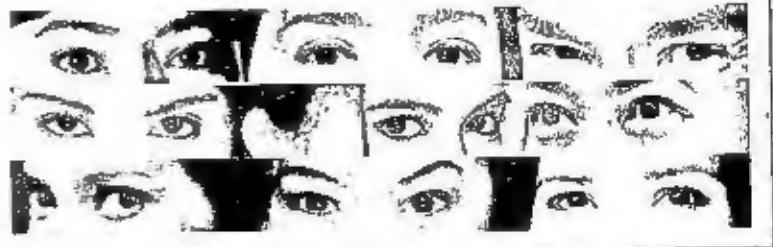
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## SEEING STARS

Huge treats await  
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to. Tomorrow, in  
Living Stars.

## Rhian plays a Mega role

From page F1

Wednesday, is expected to be launched next month as possible replacement for "Kung Ma-hawi Man ang Ulap," another remake. It stars Bianca King, Stef Prescott, Alfred Vargas and Rita Avila, under the direction of Louie Ignacio.

Rhian, who also hosts the Animax show "Mad, Mad Fun," is "overwhelmed" by her new assignment. But she promises to continue her high-school studies—the main reason she took a breather from the biz earlier this year.

"It's written in my contract that education is my priority," says Rhian, who is currently enrolled as a junior in a home-study program. "I want to take a creative course like directing or fashion design in college."

The young actress is thrilled that Robin

Padilla and Sharon Cuneta expressed interest in working with her in future projects.

"It would be a dream-come-true," she says. "It's so flattering. When I retire from acting, I'd have a great list of co-stars."

While Rhian met Sharon at the premiere of GMA Films' "Ouija," she passed off the chance to be formally introduced to Robin.

At that time, she recalls, taping for her show "Lupin" was held in the same compound as Robin's program "Asian Treasures."

"I saw him from a distance. I didn't have the guts to say hi to him," she recounts. "Others may think I was rude for not saying hello. But I'm just shy. I get easily star-struck."

Rhian is aware she is often misunderstood. "I realize you can't please everyone. Some will understand you; others simply won't."



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UNREST	THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING	BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL
1230/2:15/3:30/7:15/9:30	12:15/2:35/4:55/7:15/9:30	2:00/4:30/7:00/9:30
RENDITION	KNOCKED UP	APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
12:30/3:30/6:30/9:30	6:30/9:30	1:40/4:20/7:00/9:40

MR. WOODCOCK RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION STARDUST BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL

1:30/3:30/5:30/7:30/9:30

12:35/3:30/6:25/9:20

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## ENTERTAINMENT

IF 5

## More minus than plus points

DOES LINO GAYETANO HAVE WHAT IT takes to become a good film director? To find out, we caught his first feature "I Have Fallen For You," starring teen faves Kim Chiu and Gerald Anderson. The evidence, pro and con:

The film started out well, with the improbable but dull situation of two young people, played by Kim and Gerald, with the same name: Alex Reyes.

At first, Kim finds the situation irritating, especially because Gerald's family is much better off than hers. Later, however, she warms up to Gerald and they team up to compete in a cycling competition.

The movie's basic premise, that two very different young people can help each other find solutions to their contrasting sets of problems, is an upbeat and inspiring one, especially for empathetic young viewers.

We also like the production's "lived-in" texture and attention to detail, which indicates that the filmmaker has bothered to make his material real, and to think things through.

After a while, however, the acting insufficiencies of the movie's two leads weigh the production down. Kim and Gerald work hard to entertain us, but they are awkward about it.

Kim's basic problem is her inability to relax, to go beyond surface energy and enthusiasm. She tries so hard as a performer that, when she

## Did You Know...

DIRECTOR ANG Lee's controversial erotic thriller and winner of the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival, "Lust, Caution," will hold special previews in its R-18 uncut version starting tomorrow, Oct. 26, in selected cinemas in Metro Manila. Critic Roger Ebert applauds this movie, saying, "There is not a frame that is not beautiful."

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THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING G 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL PG13 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20	STARDUST G 12:40, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 10:00
KNOCKED UP R18 1:10, 3:50	UNREST R13 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10	RENDITION 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
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## VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

smiles, it comes off as a grimace. And her speaking voice needs a lot of lessons to modulate.

As for Gerald, he's boy-next-door appealing, and he too works hard on his role. But his problem is the vagueness of his character, as written.

He's supposed to be at loose ends because his parents' long-distance marriage is troubled. An additional problem surfaces when it's revealed that his mom and Kim's dad used to be romantically linked when they were in college.

As a result of all these pressures, Gerald is alternately indolent and anguished, and we end up sharing Kim's impatience with him.

As an actor, Gerald needs to work on his articulation, which is occasionally stilted. He should also stop relying on his good looks and fresh appeal to get passing marks as a thespian, because his roles are bound to get more complex as his career progresses.

Despite the movie's flaws, it is passably en-

tertaining, until it hits two more major sticking points:

The first is the cycling race that's made such a big deal in the story. Viewers are sorely disappointed when the two leads are shown "conditioning" themselves very poorly for it. And, when the actual race is staged, it's too small and pedestrian to be believed.

Another major problem is the movie's belated and heavy-handed focus on the romantic back story involving the two young leads' parents. This focus distracts from the film's central teen love story, especially because it's largely played out toward the movie's end, when we should be concentrating on the two young protagonists and how they finally turn out.

The saving grace here is the focused and felt performance of Lotot de Leon as Kim's mother. Her portrayal is even more impressive because it has been crafted under such confusing circumstances.

What about director Lito Cayetano? As these notes indicate, his movie has more minus than plus points, so it's reevaluation time for him, if he really wants to make good movies.

The lessons he can learn from his first feature film may include: working with really good actors, making their character curves clear and believable, emphasizing credibility in staging specialized scenes like bike races, positioning scenes in a more focused fashion, and constantly asking himself the key question: "Whose story is this?"

If he works hard to learn these lessons, his second feature should be better, and the local movie industry shall have gained another competent director whose films can delight, inspire and move us in the years to come.

LOS ANGELES—MARIE OSMOND FAINTED onstage during ABC TV's live broadcast Monday of "Dancing with the Stars" but quickly recovered. Osmond and her partner, dancer Jonathan Roberts, had just finished a samba when she suddenly toppled. Said host Tom Bergeron: "The first words out of her mouth were, 'Oh, crap.'"

AP

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7:50, 10:35  
R-13 // GP

**3 THE SEEKER**  
11:00, 1:10, 3:25  
5:40, 7:55, 10:10  
GP

**4 RENDITION**  
10:35, 1:35, 4:35  
7:35, 10:35  
PG-13

**5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL**  
10:30, 12:30, 3:00  
5:30, 8:00, 10:30  
PG-13

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October 27, 2007: Jonathan Badon  
November 1, 2007: "Into the Woods" musical  
November 15, 2007: Retrospect

**TEATRINO**  
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October 26, 2007: October 27, 2007  
December 15, 2007: Gerardo Alcasid  
December 16, 2007: Jonathan Badon  
December 17, 2007: Jenni Lansaca  
December 18, 2007: Angelos

**PROMENADE GREENHILLS**

October 25 / Nov 7-14, 15: 21:22, 26, 8:29  
October 26, 2007: October 27, 2007  
December 15, 2007: Gerardo Alcasid  
December 16, 2007: Jonathan Badon  
December 17, 2007: Jenni Lansaca  
December 18, 2007: Angelos

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## Strictly For Adults

From Ang Lee, the award-winning director of "Brokeback Mountain" and "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon"

A startling, erotic espionage thriller to be shown in its original UNCUT version.

The film is about a young secret agent (Tang Wei) who was assigned to seduce a high-ranking intelligence official (Tony Leung) of the puppet government in WWII Shanghai. As she plunged deeper into the dangerous game of lust, betrayal and espionage, she slowly realized that her relationship with her prey had evolved into something she did not expect.

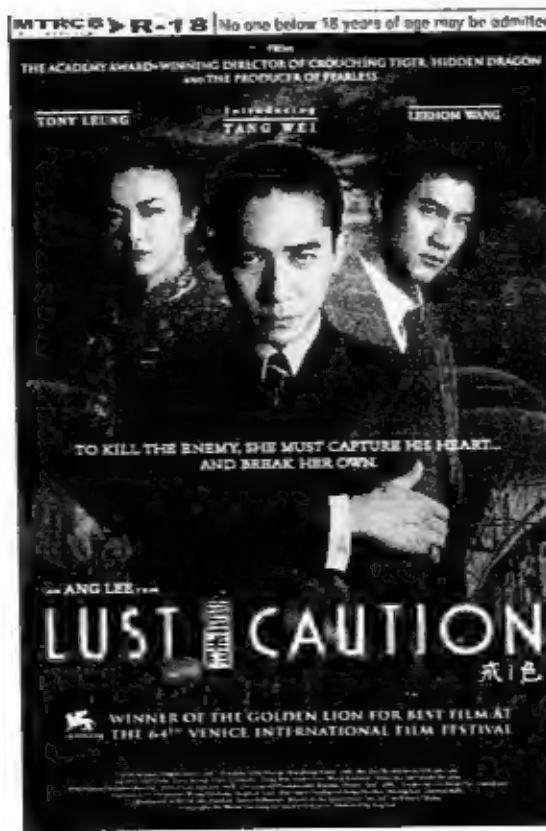
"A sumptuous, masterful piece of cinema... The torrid, full nudity scenes... set the screen ablaze."

Ruben Nepales, Philippine Daily Inquirer

"a tragic melodrama... This time love is a performance, a trap... an illusion."

Dennis Lim, New York Times

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"SENSUOUS." - Lisa Schwarzbaum, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY  
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## Paul Anka at 66: Too good to stop singing

LOS ANGELES—PAUL ANKA has written an inordinate amount of pop music classics, cranking out hit songs like "My Way" for Frank Sinatra, "It Doesn't Matter Anymore" for Buddy Holly, saving "Lonely Boy," "Put Your Head on My Shoulder," "Puppy Love" and others for himself—not bad for a guy who arrived on the music scene in 1956 with a not-quite-as-catchy tune about a place called Blaauwildebeestefontein.

Anka, who is marking his 50th year in show business, actually tried to break into the business 51 years ago.

"A lot of people don't know I came to LA the prior year to visit an uncle," the 66-year-old Canadian-born singer-songwriter recalled recently as he was putting the finishing touches on his anniversary album, the just-released "Classic Songs My Way."

### A failure at 15

Still a high school student, Anka had brought with him the book "Prester John" (required reading for Canadians because it was written by the country's legendary government general, John Buchan).

"The premise of it took place in Africa," he recalled. "There was a town called Blaauwildebeestefontein. I loved the title, so I hitchhiked to Culver City and made a record of it."

The result?

"I was a failure at 15," Anka laughed.

Fortunately for him, Sinatra, Johnny Carson (Anka wrote Carson's "The Tonight Show" theme) and pop music in general, he headed to

New York the following year. This time he brought with him a more traditional song about a 16-year-old's unrequited love for an older woman.

"Diana" became a No. 1 hit and turned a short kid whose voice had not quite matured into an overnight teen idol.

### Proud of achievements

Fifty years later, he is still short but the voice is deeper and richer and the '50s-style pop star pompadour is gone, having surrendered to a slightly receding hairline.

Anka is also still writing songs, still recording and touring, and still occasionally discovering the latest new thing. When urban folk music had a renaissance in the 1970s, he found John Prine and Steve Goodman in Chicago. When pop crooners came back into style earlier this decade, he discovered fellow Canadian Michael Bublé and helped produce his first album.

But Anka is especially proud that, no matter what the current trend, he has placed a Billboard Top 50 hit on the charts in every decade of his career.

"We'll talk again in 2010," he jokes during a recording studio break. "I've got one decade left."

Or maybe two.

"Oh, I'll slow down a little," he adds. "But to totally retire? It ain't gonna happen. I'm too good at what I do, whereas I wasn't years ago."

John Rogers, AP



## Hail, Queen Cate—again

LOS ANGELES—IT SEEMS no iconic figure is beyond Cate Blanchett, who shot to stardom as Queen Elizabeth I, won an Academy Award as Katharine Hepburn and enchanted audiences as the mythic elf Galadriel in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

In "Elizabeth: The Golden Age," which opened last week in the United States, Blanchett reprises her role as the long-reigning queen during her epic struggle to protect England amid a holy war with Spain. A month after "The Golden Age" comes "I'm Not There," with Blanchett one of six actors embodying an icon of modern times—Bob Dylan. Blanchett plays an incarnation of the musician during the Dylan-goes-electric uproar in the mid-1960s, when fans of his early acoustic sound renounced him for plugging in.

A certain fearlessness is needed to take on figures as familiar as Hepburn and Dylan, a ruler as illustrious as Elizabeth or a character as beloved as Galadriel, or to jump into a rabidly awaited sequel such as her current project, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

### Choosing roles

While it's taken some convincing by filmmakers for Blanchett to agree to some parts, she said her choices generally come from the gut.

"People say, 'How do you choose a role?' In the end, I think you really decide in about two and a half seconds," Blanchett, 38, said during an interview at a Los Angeles theater before a question-and-answer session with an audience catching an advance screening of "The Golden Age."

"It's a purely instinctual response. And then you spend the rest of your time trying to rationalize your way into it or out of it. Sometimes that takes a couple of weeks and sometimes it takes 10 years, like 'Elizabeth.'

When "Elizabeth" premiered in 1998, Blanchett had only a few television and screen credits and was little-known outside her native Australia, where she trained in theater and had become an acclaimed stage performer.

### Oscar nod

An irreverent glimpse of the early uncertain days of a woman whom history has painted as a steely monarch, "Elizabeth" earned Blanchett a Best Actress Oscar nomination.

A Supporting Actress win followed for her turn as Hepburn in 2004's "The Aviator," and Blanchett received a third nomination for last year's "Notes on a Scandal," in which she co-starred with Judi Dench—who won an Oscar for playing Queen Elizabeth in "Shakespeare in Love" the same year "Elizabeth" came out.

Hope this settles everything. Thank you for keeping us on our toes.

Though actresses as esteemed as Bette

Davis and Glenda Jackson both had played Elizabeth two times, Blanchett was hesitant to return to the role at first. In fact, she had reservations about playing the part the first time around.

Blanchett recalled: "My initial feeling when the film came my way the first time—it was probably hubris, because I was completely unknown and should have been throwing myself at their feet—but I thought, well, Glenda Jackson's done this. What do I have to say about it?"

Playing Dylan was an easier sell when Blanchett met with "I'm Not There" director and co-writer Todd Haynes, who also cast Richard Gere, Christian Bale and Heath Ledger among the six actors portraying different sides of the enigmatic rocker.

The incarnations range from a 13-year-old black boy riding the rails under the name Woody Guthrie, an early idol of Dylan.

thought he was joking, but over the years, Kapur continually raised the prospects with her and co-star Geoffrey Rush, who reprises his role as Elizabeth's wily adviser.

Rush recalled Blanchett's reluctance and Kapur's salesmanship when the three met to discuss it a few years ago.

"Cate was saying, 'Oh, but you know, I've played that character. It just feels like repeating her. It's going to be kind of a dead-end for me as an actress,'" Rush said.

Kapur stressed the differences between the first film, when Elizabeth was more of a girlish figure thrust onto the throne, and the new story, set decades later as the queen faces a storm of political and personal crises, among them a spinster's realization that her chances for love and children were slipping away, Rush said.

### Iconic figure

"A middle-aged woman confronting being established as the queen, caught up in a holy war between Catholic Spain and Protestant England. The armada. The New World opening up, the unknown spirit of adventure. The fact that she's now become this iconic monarch figure and can't really have a life and can't have children or family or anything," Rush said. "It's a beautifully written role, and Cate is absolutely astonishing in it."

"The Golden Age" co-stars Samantha Morton as Elizabeth's scheming cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots, and Clive Owen as Sir Walter Raleigh, the explorer who sparks the queen's romantic longing.

Raleigh also evokes longing for travel and adventure in a queen who, for all her worldliness, never left England.

### Tight secrecy

"To have someone walk into court who's literally gone to the edges of the known world. How incredible and expansive must that have been for her, her sense of poetry and the possibility of what life could be," Blanchett said. "It was interesting, I found, to play a vicariousness in the relationship with Raleigh, rather than simply making it, here comes Clive Owen, isn't he handsome? But to actually sort of say, 'I'd like to be him.' I've certainly had those experiences. I was talking today about watching the 'Indiana Jones' films. My experience was as a young girl, I wanted to be Indiana Jones and have those adventures."

Director Steven Spielberg and producer George Lucas are maintaining tight secrecy, so Blanchett cannot offer details about her role in the fourth "Indiana Jones" flick. But she is getting to live some of Indy's adventures.

"Steven is saying he makes it my mission everyday to give me five butch things to do. He's trying to butch me up," Blanchett said. "He's saying he's going to cast me in a film where I'm continually in a harness with five machine guns."

David Germain, AP

PAUL Anka wrote "My Way" for Frank Sinatra.

### Getting the facts straight

From Felice Amarillo (friendly.voice@yahoo.com), Bel-Air Makati:

Why does your writer Pocholo Concepcion sound judgmental? Look at how he commented on Josh Groban's attire [at an MTV function]. Please get your facts straight. Or don't forget to mention that it is just your opinion. Also, Josh has only three albums, not five.

We wonder which part of the story sounded judgmental to you.

Pocholo Concepcion merely described what Josh Groban was wearing during that affair. The truth was, the writer, in his own words, "loved the outfit" and saw it as an expression of the singer's "easygoing personality" and "his desire to reach out to those who may think his music is elitist."

The exact words that came out in the story:

"At the inauguration party, the invited guests came dressed

in suits and formal attire. Groban turned up casually garbed in a striped T-shirt, blue jeans, black denim jacket and low-cut Converse sneakers. He was also unshaven.

The look seemed to reflect Groban's desire to share any resistance that people, especially those unfamiliar to his music, may still harbor against it."

2) You also corrected the writer about the number of albums Groban had recorded, insisting there were only "three, not five." Three studio albums, yes; you missed two live albums.

All in all, he has released: "Josh Groban" (2001), "Josh Groban In Concert" (CD/DVD, 2002), "Closer" (available with DVD, 2003), "Live at the Greek" (CD/DVD, 2004), and "Awake," (available with DVD, 2006).

Hope this settles everything. Thank you for keeping us on our toes.

Though actresses as esteemed as Bette

Davis and Glenda Jackson both had played Elizabeth two times, Blanchett was hesitant to return to the role at first. In fact, she had reservations about playing the part the first time around.

Blanchett recalled: "My initial feeling when the film came my way the first time—it was probably hubris, because I was completely unknown and should have been throwing myself at their feet—but I thought, well, Glenda Jackson's done this. What do I have to say about it?"

Playing Dylan was an easier sell when Blanchett met with "I'm Not There" director and co-writer Todd Haynes, who also cast Richard Gere, Christian Bale and Heath Ledger among the six actors portraying different sides of the enigmatic rocker.

The incarnations range from a 13-year-old black boy riding the rails under the name Woody Guthrie, an early idol of Dylan.

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